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11th Conference of Non-Aligned Countries Resumes

Musa Reviews Agenda

NC0106161194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The 11th ministerial conference of the non-aligned countries resumed its meetings today with the heads of delegations at the conference hall in Madinat al-Nasr in Cairo under the chairmanship of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

The General Ministerial Committee resumed its discussion of the items on the agenda: disarmament, international security, the double standards from which developing states are suffering at the international level, and the possibility of expanding membership of the UN Security Council to include a larger number of Third World states.

The political and economic committees began their meetings. The Economic Committee will discuss the impact of GATT on developing countries' economies and the problem of African debt.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that at its morning session, the conference discussed a report by the Non-Aligned Movement's chairman on the political and economic problems facing the movement. He added that the afternoon session will discuss the UN role, its reorganization, and the international economic situation, with emphasis on GATT and its impact on Third World economies. He added that the conference will also discuss the social development of the non-aligned states as well as the venue for the next non-aligned summit. He said that a Latin American state will probably host that summit. Musa revealed that the conference will also discuss the setting up of a mechanism to handle disputes among the movement members.

Asked about differences emerging during the present meeting, Musa said that there are no disputes other than that between Iraq and Kuwait. He said that he met with the Saudi, Syrian, and other Arab foreign ministers today and discussed developments in Yemen, since events there affect the entire region. He added that the continuation of military operations is of concern to all Arabs.

Musa said that Egypt will certainly approve the resolution that the UN Security Council will issue. He explained that this resolution will call for an end to the fighting and for dispatching a fact-finding committee to Yemen. He noted that Egypt was among the cosponsors of that draft resolution.

Musa Explains Serbia's Absence

NC0106193394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—[Egyptian] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has explained that Serbia was not invited to the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] foreign ministers conference in accordance with an agreement between the Movement's chairman, Indonesia, and Egypt. He noted that this issue had not been raised by any member, either during general meetings or at committee meetings or consultations.

Musa was replying to a question by a MENA correspondent on why Serbia was not invited. He said: As chairman of the NAM foreign ministers conference, Egypt is bound by the measures decided upon in the New York coordination office and during consultations in Jakarta and agreed upon by NAM members. According to these measures, Serbia will not attend NAM meetings unless a matter relating to its own entity is being discussed, Musa explained. Only in such a case can Serbia be invited to give its opinion on the matter, he said.

Musa affirmed that there is a consensus on banning Serbia's and Montenegro's participation in NAM meetings.

Croatia's Granic on Ties With Bosnia

NC0106175794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—Croatian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mate Granic has declared that his country strongly supports a cease-fire in Bosnia-Hercegovina and a federation between Muslims and Croats.

At a press conference that he held today on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Cairo, the Croatian foreign minister said that Muslims and Croats have several things in common and that both are interested in establishing contacts and relations. He affirmed that no problems exist between the two sides and that they have an understanding and a type of cooperation between them.

Granic added that Croatia, one of the newest world states, is interested in building strong political and economic ties with different states. He noted that he seized the opportunity of his participation in the non-aligned meeting to hold over 200 meetings with the foreign ministers at the conference to enhance bilateral ties and expand the scope of cooperation.

He noted that his country seeks to join the European Union [EU] and expects to sign an economic agreement with the EU by the end of the year.

Pakistani Minister Views Kashmir Issue

BK0106162594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] [Pakistani] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has told the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] ministerial meeting in Cairo that the Kashmiri people's right

to self-determination is an acclaimed, undeniable, and irreversible truth and should not be subjected to political expediency.

Addressing the meeting, the foreign minister stressed that the process of self-determination must be completed by granting the right of self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are engaged in a relentless struggle against Indian oppression. He said the cruelty that has been adopted to crush the Kashmiri people's struggle is unparalleled in history. The official machinery and institutions in occupied Kashmir have a free hand to commit all sorts of atrocities to suppress the people's aspirations. Torture, the molestation of women, the death of people in detention, robbery, and the burning of people's houses have become routine. These cruel activities are being committed by the more than 500,000 occupation forces deployed in occupied Kashmir.

The foreign minister also told the Non-Aligned Movement ministerial meeting that massive attempts are being made to misrepresent the indigenous uprising launched by the people of Kashmir. Allegations are being made about foreign interference and assistance in this regard. He reminded India that the light of freedom has never been extinguished by oppression and terror. He said this misleading and cruel policy is no answer to the situation in occupied Kashmir. The only solution to the Kashmir issue is to implement the UN Security Council resolution.

Indian Minister Criticizes Pakistan

BK0206041494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] India has criticized Pakistan for raising the Kashmir issue at the Non-Aligned Foreign Minister's meeting, saying the movement cannot be involved in the matter. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, told the meeting in Cairo that New Delhi has always been ready for the dialogue with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue but there has been little response from Islamabad. In a strongly worded response to a Pakistani demand for intervention by NAM [Non-Aligned Movement] in the issue, Mr. Bhatia said: Pakistan is inflicting enormous suffering on the people of New Delhi through state sponsored terrorism. He asserted that Kashmir is and will always remain an integral part of India.

Mr. Bhatia reminded the meeting of the ruling by the NAM chairman Indonesia that bilateral disputes should not be discussed at the NAM meeting. He said: Any moves going against the ruling can only weaken the movement.

Iraq's al-Sahhaf Addresses Conference

JN0206091694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (INA)—Iraq has called on the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] countries to activate economic, political, and trade cooperation among its membership and to take an interest in collective coordination in all fields in order to serve their vital interests in the world and to face current challenges. Addressing the NAM conference today, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraq's foreign minister and head of the Iraqi delegation to the conference, said that Iraq proposes laying a foundation for cooperation and coordination among the NAM countries and called on NAM to study practical proposals through which the movement could contribute to reorganizing the United Nations as it currently exists.

Al-Sahhaf said: Reorganizing the United Nations should be based on objective grounds that guarantees equality and respect for state's sovereignty, independence, and free choice. This, he added, would produce a new formula that prevents a few rich states from exploiting this organization for their own interests and imposing hegemony over the world.

The foreign minister called on NAM to study the possibility of activating cooperation among its member states in specific fields, particularly with regard to trade and economic relations with industrialized countries. This cooperation, he added, would give NAM countries greater power because they would share interests with other countries.

Responding to the speech delivered by the representative of the Kuwaiti rulers—who issued a host of allegations and slanders that are not in harmony with the general spirit of the conference represented by the call for dialogue, reconciliation, and solving problems through peaceful means—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said: The Government of Iraq has fulfilled all measures requested by the Security Council in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687. He added that this was documented in four letters circulated as official documents at the Security Council. He said: The position of the Iraqi Government vis-a-vis these resolutions still exists as stipulated by these letters, which were accepted by the Security Council, which established a permanent cease-fire on the basis of these letters. The minister noted that anything contrary to this means the existence of a contradiction between what is required by Security Council Resolution 686 and the establishment of a permanent cease-fire in accordance with Resolution 687.

The Iraqi foreign minister noted in his speech that the United Nations and the UN Special Commission have admitted that Iraq has implemented all the requirements of disarmament, which is considered an important chapter of Resolution 687. He added that Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments, as stipulated by this chapter, requires that the Security Council so far because of the

intransigence of one country that imposes its opinion and hegemony over the council thereby constituting a political blackmail to achieve its personal interests. [sentence as received]

Regarding the issue of missing Kuwaitis, the foreign minister reiterated that Iraq has no interest in keeping a single Kuwaiti in prison and that there is not one prisoner in Iraq. He said: We released all prisoners, including members of the ruling Kuwaiti family. The issue of missing persons was fabricated by the other party, which has turned it into a political, not a humanitarian, problem.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said: Foreign interests represent a major factor in maintaining instability in the region so as to justify their military and political presence, to make big profits from arms deals, and to impose trade deals and projects so as to invigorate their economy at the expense of stability, peace, and security in the region.

Al-Sahhaf said that, contrary to certain parties' claims, Iraq is earnest and concerned about taking sound technical and legal steps to implement the Security Council resolutions and to take various initiatives so as to normalize the situation in the region. He noted that the last initiative was declared by the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly in which he called on the Kuwaiti parliament to embark on dialogue and resolve suspended problems between the two countries. He added: However, the Kuwaiti parliament rejected this call with arrogance.

Concluding his speech, the foreign minister welcomed the Republic of South Africa for joining NAM as a full member state.

Iraqi-Kuwaiti Altercation Over Embargo

NC0106192094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—MENA has learned that the meeting of the political committee of the 11th conference of the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] of foreign ministers, currently being held in Cairo, has witnessed an altercation for the second time between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers. The Iraqi minister requested the conference issue a decision to lift the economic embargo on Iraq, and the Kuwaiti minister objected to that request.

MENA has also learned that a number of participants requested that the Iraqi people's suffering be curbed and demanded that the conference issue a recommendation to that effect.

Government Mediates Between Iraq, Kuwait

NC0106204894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that Egypt, in its capacity as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] conference, is currently working to bring the views of Iraq and Kuwait closer on the final statement of the conference, which will be issued Friday [3 June]. The draft Egypt prepared is based on Iraq's recognition of Kuwait, its sovereignty, its safety, and its regional border. The draft also notes progress in Iraq's position and the need to consider the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Iran's Velayati on Denuclearization Issues

LD0206100194 Tehran IRNA in English 0929 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 2, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday [1 June] said that the non-aligned countries have traditionally demanded a time-bound framework, including a target date for removal and destruction of the entire stockpile of nuclear weapons.

Velayati, here for the 11th session of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ministerial meeting, made the remark in his address to the NAM session on te issue of disarmament.

The issue of security assurances for non-nuclear weapon states is the second major point, Velayati said.

The non-aligned countries should insist that the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) be finalized before the NPT review conference and that it should be comprehensive, verifiable, non-discriminatory and devoid of any exceptionalities. How to deal with the existing nuclear test sites also remains as an important task, he said.

In this respect, added Velayati, the non-aligned countries also welcome the decision of the [UN] General Assembly to start negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for weapon purpose.

On the chemical weapons convention, he said that the non-aligned members of the Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC) need to consolidate their efforts to make certain that their views and positions on issues ranging from definition of chemical weapons and modalities of challenge inspection to the problem of technological assistance and peaceful use as well as their fair share in the organisation are met before ratification and entering into force of the convention.

As for biological weaapons, Velayati said that what may be at stake is the health requirements of the developing countries as significant parts of the pharmaceutical industry, including serum and vaccine production, will be affected by discussions due to take place at the special conference in September this year.

Touching on the issue of transparency in armament, the Iranian foreign minister said debate continues on the scope and expansion of the register.

"It is realized that regional arrangements is an essential ingredient for a complete register and, therefore, for the success of transparency in armament. This may also

open the way for the reduction of conventional weapons both at regional and global levels to the eventual point of ensuring only the minimum security requirements of each state."

Libya's al-Muntasir Gives Address

LD0106222294 Tripoli JANA in English 1740 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The [Libyan] secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation ['Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir] addressed the Non-Aligned ministerial conference first addendum. The secretary of the General People's Comvittee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation asserted that since the holding of the 10th summit conference in Jakarta in 1992, the world has been witnessing quick and successive developments and changes with long terms effects on international relations on both regional and international levels including the non-alignment movement as new economic and political trends emerge requiring our countries to study them thoroughly and take the necessary initiatives to deal with them.

He pointed out that the changes which took place in he world did not end or lessen the validity of the fundamental principles and objectives of the movement.

He added "the ideal international order as invisaged by the founder fathers of our movement is still far from achieving and that the aspirations of the non-alignment movement countries for real equality, genuine independence and limited development continue to clash with the forces who have been accustomed to achieve their intentions without any due regard for the opinion and desires of the international community and the U.N resolutions.

He said against these challenges and the absence of international balance, the non-alignment movement continue to represent the appropriate framework for the coordination for the policy of its members so as to achieve their aspirations, common action to maintain their sovereign independence and confronting the tendencies of new domination and the imposition of the will of the major powers on the whole world.

He added "our movement will not oe able to fulfil its whole role except through the enhancement of its unity, rejection of any attempt to marginalize the role of the movement in international affairs and to work actively to prevent the establishment of a descriminator of international order which would serve only the interest of the northern countries at the expense of the interest of the south. We are required to find the necessary means and ways to maintain the power of impetus within the non-alignment movement so as to fulfil its total role in formulating the new international relations and influence them in a manner commensurate with its size and its political and demographic weight and to contribute towards creating a new multilateral world free from domination and founded on cooperation, justice, equity, equality and respect for the sovereignty of other states.

The secretary of the General People's Committe for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation made clear that during the 10th summit of the non-aligned movement, the delegation of the Great Jamahirya was given tpe opportunity to inform the head of states of the latest developments in the despute between herself and the United States of America, Britain and France.

He said "my country expressed deep satisfaction towards the stance taken by the movement regarding this dispute as the summit welcomed Libya's acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 731 and requested the concerned parties to refrain from any escalation of the crisis and seek to find a peaceful and just settlement which may safeguard the interest and rights of all parties in accordance with the norms and principles of international law and the U.N. charter. Other organizations took a similar stance and I refer in this respect to the O.A.U. which adopted in its recent summit in Cairo a decision expressing her gratitude to the Libyan initiatives to settle the dispute in a manner which respects the sovereignty of Libya in accordance to internatinal norms and Libya's acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 731 and its request to the U.N Secretary General to set up a [word indistinct] for the implementation of the resolution. Also the heads of state expressed their gratitude to Libya's readiness to cooperate with judicial and legal parties. A similar decision was taken by the Islamic Conference Organization.

The secretary added "in this respect I would like to refer the Arab League Resolution No 5373 on 27/3/1994 regarding the trial of the two suspects at the seat of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The resolution urged the Security Council to take into consideration this new proposal which represents an approriate basis to finding a peaceful eolution which may satisfy all the varties and prevent any escalation of the situation which may highten tension in the region.

The Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation said "and here my country declares once again her acceptance the aforementioned proposal of the League of Arab States as a practical bases to finding a final solution to this dispute which is in our opinion enough to reach a solution if these countries had sicncere intentions and the firm desire for a solution to this issue.

He added "we are confident that this conference will support the initiative of the Arab League and urge the Security Council to respond to it. We rely on the efforts and endeavours of the non-aligned movement to convience the concerned countries to accept the proposal of the Arab League and abandon efforts to impose further sanctions which will only add to the suffering to the Libyan Arab people and neighbouring peoples who suffered massive losses as a resultpof the unjust, sanctions of the Secuirty Council resolutions 748 and 883 and the

lifting of abroagating of these sanctions. The U.N. is one of the biggest centers for coordinating international which the recent changes are reflected. However the dominatin of a given geographical area in the running of the affairs of the organization with the aim to impose its opinion in various important issues led to a further [word indistinct] of the developing countries spear-headed by the non-alignment movement. This emerged clearly during the debates of the security council on a number of issues. And there are moves which emerged indeed and warn of the desire to take similar measures at the U.N. General Assembly. This shows clearly the danger threatening the democratic character of the U.N. which has [word indistinct] since its establishment, safe-guarded by the third world membership and its effective participation in its activities. These recent developments inside the U.N. are similar to the crisis facing the non-aligned movement countries. Our movement, being the biggest international grouping after the U.N., was able in the past thanks to the balanced democratic debates to pave the way for the U.N. to take important political, economic and social resolutions.

The secretary asserted "the member states of the movement should make sure to play fundamental role in the formulation in the future U.N. and its restructuring instead of accepting to be on the fringe of events and for the movement to take all effective measures to confront the current challenges.

The secretary added "to realize this objective, we have to seek to enhance the U.N. machinery and redirect its activities in an effective manner so that all countries will be able to participate in the process of the decisions taken by the organization and take part effectively in the multilateral diplomacy which the U.N. is considered to be its axis and for us to be able to create a new order founded on freedom, equality, justike, prosperity and the well being of all mankind.

The secretary refered once again to the injustice of the so-called veto right within the security council enjoyed by five countries from a total of 184 member states of the U.N.

He pointed out "unfortunately this privilage was abused in many circumstances to entrench aggression and terrorizing smaller nations and the application of double standards in dealing with many issues affecting the maintenance of peace and security.

He added "in this respect I would like to stress Section 32 the decision of the Jakarta Summit which asserts the need for revising this right in conformity with reforming the U.N. and demand a review of the Security Council membership so as to reflect the increasing number of the U.N membership and help finding fairer and more balanced representation of the U.N. members also I would like to reiterate the report of the miniserial committee on policy submitted to Jakarta Summit stressing the need for effective coordination of the stances of the movement before and after the convening of the General Assembly especially regarding the issues on which the movement took decisions. Furthermore, it is necessary for the decisons taken by the summit and ministerial conferences to reflect their true effect by members of the movement within the security council so as to give it the necessary credibility.

NAM Foreign Ministers Hold Sideline Meetings

Egypt's Musa, Iran's Velayati Meet

NC0206093994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA)—[Egyptian] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this morning with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] Conference.

Velayati described the one-hour meeting as extremely constructive and positive and said that NAM and international cooperation issues were discussed.

In a statement he made following the meeting, Velayati added that Egypt and Iran expressed their desire for constructive bilateral cooperation in the international arena, NAM, and the Islamic Conference Organization. He said that he and Musa discussed various issues, including the situations in Yemen and Bosnia and regional matters.

Velayati refused to answer questions on bilateral issues between Egypt and Iran or on the criticism by British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hurd that Iran is sponsoring terrorism.

Velayati Meets Kuwaiti, Syrian Counterparts

LD0206095094 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 2, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday [1 June] discussed bilateral, regional and international issues in separate meetings with his Kuwaiti, Syrian and Indian counterparts.

Velayati, who is here to attend the four-day Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ministerial meeting, and his Kuwaiti counterpart, Shaykh sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in a meeting stressed the importance of bilateral relations as well as speeding up of the formation of Iran-Kuwait joint economic commission.

Describing the recent visit of a group of Kuwati University professors and journalists to Tehran as "positive", Velayati said that it could pave the way for further enhancing mutual understanding between the two countries.

He also referred to the Kuwait-Iraq relations and expressed hope that the two can find peaceful ways to solve their border disputes by preventing further interference of the foreign powers in the region.

Pointing out to the latest developments in Kuwait-Iraq relations, Al-Sabah stressed the need for full implementation of the U.N. Security Council's resolutions on Iraq. He also expressed willingness to visit Iran in a near future to explore avenues for further promotion of bilateral ties.

Meanwhile, in another meeting Velayati and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' stressed the need for holding the tripartite meeting by Iran, Syria and Turkey due to be held in Damascus next summer.

The two sides also exchanged views on the issue of Palestine and the expansionist policies of the Zionist regime.

Earlier in the day, Velayati met with his Indian counterpart Dinesh Singh and discussed Tehran-New Delhi relations, latest developments in Kashmir and the issues pertaining the NAM meeting.

Velayati arrived here last Monday heading a ranking delegation.

Further on Velayati-al-Sabah Meeting

NC0106210894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met this evening on the sideline of the ministerial Non-Aligned Conference in Cairo.

Shaykh al-Sabah said they exchanged views on a number of issues, including Iraq-Kuwait relations and the ties between Kuwait and Iran, which he described as good.

He noted that the Iranian president invited Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, amir of Kuwait, to visit Tehran. He said the visit will take place very soon.

When asked about the altercation between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi delegations today, Shaykh al-Sabah said the Kuwaiti delegation was replying to the remarks of the Iraqi delegation concerning the Security Council resolutions that Kuwait, along with the entire world, demands be implemented. Regrettably, he said, Iraq always says that it closed the file the Kuwait issue.

If Iraq really means that, the Kuwaiti minister said, then the Iraqi Government and National Assembly should send an official document to the Security Council telling it that they accept all its resolutions.

He denied any Egyptian mediation to improve relations between Iraq and Kuwait.

The Iranian foreign minister was asked about Iran's future relations with the PLO in light of Iran's opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He replied that the PLO still operates its embassy in Tehran, and that the Iranian Government has good ties with the various Palestinian factions. He said his country is sympathetic toward the Palestinian cause, and it closed the Israeli embassy and replaced it with an embassy for Palestine.

Velayati said there are plans for the presidents of Iran and Syria to meet in Damascus in July to discuss regional and international issues of mutual concern. The presidents will also discuss the situation in northern Iraq, which is called the Kurdish region, he said.

Further on Velayti-al-Shar' Meeting

NC0106193194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met in Cairo this afternoon on the sidelines of the 11th Non-Aligned ministerial conference.

Velayati told reporters after the one-hour meeting that the talks were good and constructive, and that they discussed bilateral relations and the topics on the agenda of the non-aligned conference.

He said they also discussed the subjects that will be brought before the next meeting in Damascus attended by Syria, Turkey and Iran at the end of July concerning the situation in northern Iraq.

Velayati said he will meet with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and will take part in the meeting of the liaison group of the Islamic Conference Organization on Bosnia.

For his part, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said after the meeting that he and Velayati discussed bilateral relations and a number of issues of mutual concern. He described the Syrian-Iranian relations as cordial and said the two countries are exchanging views.

Al-Shar' said it is intended to hold a summit meeting among the presidents of Syria, Turkey, and Iran in Damascus in July to discuss ties and issues of common concern.

On the Middle East peace process, al-Shar' said no progress has been made in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations because of Israel's intransigence. There is no peace between Israel and Syria now, he said.

Asked about Israel's abduction of Lebanese resistance leader Mustafa al-Dirani, the Syrian minister said this is an act of piracy and terrorism. He said the abduction is a violation of Lebanese sovereignty and an act of international terrorism. He said resistance in southern Lebanon is a legitimate right which Syria supports.

Velayati Confers With Iraq's al-Sahhaf

LD0106200794 Tehran IRNA in English 1852 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 1, IRNA—An Iranian Foreign Ministry delegation is to visit Baghdad on June 11, according

to Foreign Minister 'Ali-Akbar Velayati, who is here for the eleventh assembly of the foreign ministers of the non-aligned movement.

In Baghdad, the Iranian delegation will make preparations for the visit to Iraq of the Iranian foreign minister that will take place sometime between July 1st and 10th.

Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Sa'id al-Sahhaf here today discussed various issues affecting bilateral relations as well as topics related to the region including the situation in northern Iraq, international sanctions against that country and current developments in Yemen.

After the meeting Al-Sahhaf said both countries are opposed to the U.S. policies in the region and will not tolerate implementation of those policies.

He said without elaboration that he and Velayati had agreed on certain important issues which hopefully would bear fruits.

Velayati Meets With Bahrain's Al Khalifah

LD0106200394 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 1, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali-Akbar Velayati and Foreign Minister of Bahrain Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak al Khalifah here Wednesday [1 June] conferred on topics of mutual interest and on how to broaden relations between the two countries.

Al Khalifah said his government would exert every effort to further develop the relations between the two Persian Gulf countries.

He said Iran and Bahrain have identical views on many important issues including those brought up at the current 11th assembly of foreign ministers of the non-aligned nations.

Velayati, too, said his talks with his Bahraini ounterpart were very friendly.

He added that the two countries have common positions towards many regional and international issues including those of Yemen and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Velayati Holds Talks With Omani Minister

NC0106132894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah has said that his country and Iran will work together to establish peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Following his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today, Bin-'Alawi told MENA that he and the Iranian minister discussed several important issues, including the situation in Yemen, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Gulf region in addition to bilateral ties.

Touching on the Gulf security arrangements, Bin-'Alawi explained that this issue was not discussed during the meeting. Our stance is clear in this connection, he said, noting that his meeting with the Iranian minister focused primarily on the issues included on the agenda of the Non-Aligned Movement Conference.

The Omani state minister emphasized that a cease-fire in Yemen will give Yemenis the chance to return to negotiations and decide their country's future.

Replying to a question on relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Israel, Bin-'Alawi said that there are no relations between his country and Israel and that the Israeli delegation that visited Muscat recently only took part in the multilateral negotiations. This does not mean that there are Omani-Israeli relations, he said.

I clearly explained that the establishment of such relations in the future means that Israel will have to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and that a comprehensive peace will have to be established between Israel and all Arab states, he said.

Velayati, Libya's al-Muntasir Meet

NC0206111494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA)—'Umar al-Muntasir, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee, met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement Conference currently being held in Cairo.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, coordinating their countries' stances at the conference, developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and restructuring the United Nations.

Velayati, Yemen's Basindwah Hold Talks

NC3105184594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 May (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah met here this evening with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned foreign ministers' meeting. The two ministers discussed the latest developments in Yemen and ways to reach a cease-fire and find a peaceful solution to the Yemeni crisis.

Syria's al-Shar' Meets Yemeni, Cuban Minister

JN0206075094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo—[Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' resumed his meetings yesterday on the sidelines of the 11th Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference.

Al-Shar' met with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah. They exchanged views on the latest developments in the situation in Yemen.

Al-Shar' also met with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. The talks dealt with relations between the two friendly countries, and the need to reactivate the Non-Aligned Movement's role in light of international changes.

Al-Shar' also met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The talks dealt with the situation in the region, the latest developments in the peace process, and bilateral relations.

The foreign minister also met with (Pavel Tratinka), assistant to the Czech foreign minister.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with bilateral relations and developments in the Middle East peace process.

Al-Shar' Meets DPRK, RSA Ministers

JN0106165894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo—On the sidelines of the meetings of the 11th Non-Aligned foreign ministers' conference, [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today met with Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs.

The talks dealt with the Middle East peace process and its developments. The talks also dealt with the issues listed on the agenda of the Non-Aligned Conference.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also met with Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on issues listed on the agenda of the conference. The talks also dealt with relations between the two friendly countries.

Faruq al-Shar' also met with South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo. Al-Shar' congratulated the South African foreign minister on his country's joining of the Non-Aligned Movement. He said that the lifting of apartheid is a victory for the movement and mankind in general.

During the meeting, the two sides expressed their concern for establishing firm relations between the two countries in all fields.

The South African foreign minister highly appreciated Syria's support for the just struggle of the African National Congress and its historic success in dismantling the apartheid system and establishing a nonracial democratic republic.

The foreign minister also met with Bosnian Foreign Minister Dr. Irfan Ljubijankic. The talks dealt with the developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Al-Shar' met with Professor Guido De Marco, Maltese deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with the situation in the region, and latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Iraq's al-Sahhaf, Rwandan Minister Confer

JN0106093194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] [Iraqi] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met in Cairo yesterday with Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Salah Dembri. The foreign minister briefed the Algerian minister on the positive atmosphere and stands that have emerged on the part of most of the members of the Security Council, thus confirming Iraq's sound position and its call on the council to fulfill its obligations in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, after Iraq has fulfilled all its international obligations toward it.

They also discussed issues related to joint Arab action and Arab developments, in addition to relations between Iraq and Algeria.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also met with Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Jasim Bin-Hamd Al Thani. He briefed him on Iraqi ties with the United Nations and the UN Special Commission, and the fact that there is now a large circle calling for lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq, represented in some Security Council members and the international community in general.

During the meeting, they discussed brotherly relations between the two countries.

During the two meetings, the Algerian and Qatari foreign ministers reiterated their countries' constant position calling for lifting the blockade on the Iraqi people, especially since Iraq has implemented its obligations per Security Council Resolution 687 and cooperated fully with the Security Council and the Special Commission.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf is currently visiting Cairo to attend the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The foreign minister also met in Cairo with the foreign minister of Rwanda who reviewed the motives for foreign—especially U.S.—intervention in his country.

The Rwandan foreign minister said the United States seeks to impose its hegemony on Rwanda and appoint its agents in the region as part of a plan to strike at international liberation movements and use force to impose a fait accompli in contradiction to the aspirations of nations.

The foreign minister briefed his Rwandan counterpart on Iraq's efforts at the Security Council to have the unjust blockade lifted and on the positive indications that started to emerge within the council.

The Rwandan foreign minister praised Iraq's principled stand in the face of U.S. hegemony and its resistance to all kinds of aggression, as well as its people's steadfastness in the face of the unjust blockade.

The Republic of Rwanda is a member of the Security Council in its current session. It had called for lifting the Iraq blockade at the council.

Al-Sahhaf, Cuba's Robaina Meet

JN3005180694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (INA)—[Iraqi] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met here today with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina.

The foreign minister briefed his Cuban counterpart on the recent positive developments and new atmosphere at the UN Security Council in favor of Iraq, represented by the majority calling for lifting the embargo clamped on Iraq after Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward UN Security Council Resolution 687.

The minister stressed the importance of maintaining the spirit and essence of the non-aligned states' principles so as to reinforce their vital interests and entrench their independence.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also briefed the Cuban foreign minister on the Iraqis' achievements in the field of reconstructing their country and safeguarding its national security despite the unjust economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

The INA correspondent in Cairo cited the Cuban foreign minister as reiterating his country's support for Iraq's persistent efforts to lift the embargo, and its solidarity with the Iraqi people.

Al-Sahhaf and Robaina stressed the importance of promoting cooperation between the two friendly countries in the interest of their peoples.

Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, attended the meeting.

Al-Sahhaf Talks With Venezuelan Counterpart

JN3005141294 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 30, INA—Foreign minister, chairman of the Iraqi delegation to the Non-Aligned conference, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today conferred in Cairo with his Venezuelan counterpart Burelli Rivas.

During the meeting, Mr. al-Sahhaf briefed the Venezuelan official on developments of relation between Iraq and the Security Council and the U.N. special commission and Iraq's implementation of its reciprocal commitments pursuant to the Security Council Resolutions.

He also explained Iraq's assessment of the positive discussions by the Security Council members during the recent session of the Council held in New York, confirming that Iraq demands the next routine review must be decisive as for lifting the blockade imposed on the country since August 1990.

INA Cairo correspondent said that the Iraqi and Venezuelan ministers had also discussed bilateral ties and means of resuming them.

They also exchanged view points on a package of regional and global issues of common concern.

Present at the meeting were Iraq's Foreign Undersecretary Wisam al-Zahawi and Iraq's Arab League Permanent Delegate Dr Nabil Najim.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria, Jordan, Lebanon Moving Toward 'Economic Bloc'

PM0106160094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 May 94 p5

[Reports by Salih Qallab in Amman and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Cairo: "Syrian-Jordanian-Lebanese Consultations To Counter Israel's 'Middle East Market' Proposal"]

[Excerpt] Highly placed diplomatic sources have revealed that Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon have reached an advanced stage in consultations—with the participation of King Husayn of Jordan and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad—aimed at crystallizing a strong economic bloc in the region capable of standing fast in the face of Israel in the future after the creation of the so-called "Middle East market."

According to the same sources, the Syrian-Jordanian-Lebanese consultations and meetings in this connection have made great progress and the technical experts from the three countries have completed the major part of the draft concepts and required studies and all that remains is the political decision which awaits the right circumstances in the region and at Arab and international levels.

It seems that the United States and Russia are aware of these moves and that the issue was discussed by Presidents Clinton and al-Asad during their latest meeting in Geneva some months ago. The issue was also discussed with Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese officials by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Viktor Kosovalyuk, head of the Middle East and North Africa Section at the Russian Foreign Ministry, on their successive visits to the region.

Some circles believe that this development, which had not previously been disclosed or publicized, might have something to do with the Syrian position passed to U.S. and Russian officials, that if Syria is to participate in the peace process in the region, it must play a regional part in the Middle East.

Tne question being asked is whether the PLO and the National Authority in Gaza and Jericho, and later in the West Bank, would be given any part in that process. Some say that the Palestinian part would come at a later stage when the situation stabilizes and becomes clearer, but others claim that Syria has imposed a veto against the PLO on the grounds that the latter accepted a separate solution and concluded agreements considered by Syria to be in the interest of Israel's future economic designs.

The same sources say that the Iraqis were perhaps informed by Jordan or Syria indirectly about the formation of such a bloc. The sources add, however, that Iraq, in its current situation, can only listen to such ideas but even in the long run it would have priorities other than such a bloc, especially rebuilding what was destroyed by the war and years of boycott.

The Egyptians most probably know about the aforementioned economic bloc but they do not favor such a step or talking about at this sensitive stage, particularly as that might affect the current peace process.

Some circles believe that Syria, in agreement with Jordan and Lebanon, perhaps deliberately brandished the bloc card to put pressure on Israel and the United States for more concessions on the question of withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Arab Group Applies for Security Council Seat

NC0106131494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, has stated that an Arab group has submitted an official application to obtain a permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

In a statement made today on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement Conference, al-'Arabi said that the African group has also requested two permanent seats on the council.

He explained that the UN General Assembly is expected to consider the expansion of the UN Security Council membership and including other countries at its session next year.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives U.S. Senate Delegation in Tunis

LD0106190694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] This morning, the brother President 'Arafat received a U.S. Senate delegation, in the presence of the U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Mr. John McCarthy. The delegation comprises Senator Paul Simon, Senator Russel Fengold, and Senator Harry Reid. At the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments of the peace process and the stages of implementation of the self-rule agreement in Gaza and Jericho, as well as the importance of the donor countries meeting their commitments to bolster the Palestinian National Authority.

During the meeting, brother 'Arafat entrusted the U.S. Senate delegation with a letter for U.S. President Bill Clinton on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement signed in Washington last September in the interest of the peace process in the Middle East. The meeting stressed the strengthening of bilateral relations between the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Congress and the PLO in the interest of the U.S. and Palestinian peoples, and in the service of a just peace.

The meting was attended by brothers: Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and 'Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah, director-general of the PLO Political Department.

Committee Meets to Draft Gaza, Jericho Statutes

LD3005075794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] An informed Palestinian source reports that a restricted committee of the Palestinian authority met in Tunis last night to draft the statute of the forthcoming self-rule government in Gaza and Jericho. The committee included Minister of Justice Faraj Abu Middayn and Minister of Housing Zakariyah al-Agha.

The committee will later present the draft statute to the Palestinian Authority.

Civilian Authority Begins To Exercise 'Full Power'

NC0106172394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Rafah, 1 Jun (MENA)—The Palestinian civilian authorities have started to exercise their full power in the autonomy areas in Gaza and Jericho as of today. Staff Major General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Majaydah, commander of the Palestinian National Security Forces, stated that a

Palestinian-Israeli higher coordination committee has been formed and that three Palestinian liaison subcommittees were formed in Jericho, Gaza, and Khan Yunus to discuss outstanding matters and to come to a solution to the remaining problems that obstruct the implementation of the agreement, primarily the issue of borders and crossing points.

The autonomy areas have been divided into three zones, each entrusted to an official. They are North Gaza, from Wadi Gaza to Bayt Hanun, entrusted to Colonel Sulayman Halas; South Gaza, from Wadi Gaza to Rafah, entrusted to Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Mu'ti al-Sab'awi; and Jericho, including the city of Jericho and camps, entrusted to Brigadier General Sa'id Naji.

Maj. Gen. al-Majaydah remarked that these appointments are temporary and are designed to run matters in the National Authority areas until Yasir 'Arafat completes his appointments.

In another development, a group of 222 Palestinian police of varying ranks from Tunis crossed the Rafah border point today. Another 600 individuals are expected to arrive from Libya this evening and a third group will arrive from Tunis in the next two days.

Meanwhile, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad commands have decided to cooperate with the Palestinian National Authority on building the state, to abandon violence, and to form a political party to discuss matters objectively to serve the interests of the Palestinian people.

Al-Tarifi Named Head of Civil Coordination Committee

NC3105182294 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 30 May 94 p 1

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has appointed lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi general coordinator for the civilian authorities with the rank of minister and head of the Civil Coordination Committee, enjoying all the privileges of the National Authority and attending its meetings. His will have direct contact with President Yasir 'Arafat.

It is worth noting that al-Tarifi is head of the Palestinian team at the negotiations on civil authority and the transfer of privileges. He is considered to be one of the people closest to the PLO chairman.

'Arafat asked al-Tarifi to come to Tunis last week, along with a number of other figures, to take part in the expanded meetings of the Palestinian leadership.

Authority Members To Arrive 'Next Week'

TA0106100394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The first representatives of the Palestinian Authority will arrive in Jericho next week. This was said by sources in Jericho to our correspondent Moti Amir. Among those arriving will be Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] and Nabil Sha'th. Meanwhile, 18 offices for the use of the Palestinian Authority members—including an office for Yasir 'Arafat—have been completed in Jericho. Our correspondent notes that the Palestinians will also set up a special office in Jericho for handling the intifadah victims.

[Earlier on the same newscast, it is noted that "the closure imposed on al-Ram yesterday—after the security forces killed the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist who has killed Shin Bet officer No'am Kohen—was lifted today."]

'Ashrawi Explains Rejection of Information Portfolio

PM0206103494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jun 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: " 'Ashrawi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: My Rejection of the Information Portfolio in the Authority is in Line With My Previous Positions"]

[Excerpts] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, former spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to Washington negotiations, has said that her refusal to assume the information ministry portfolio offered to her recently was in line with her previous position.

Replying to the numerous questions aroused by her participation in the authority council's meetings without being a member of it, 'Ashrawi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: From the outset I have chosen to lead the independent Palestinian committee for human rights. It was my commitment, especially as it is an agency working for the sake of achieving the Palestinian people's public welfare.

'Ashrawi said that "what is more important than holding posts and assuming portfolios is to agree on a foundation and a binding working program from which the National Authority Council's work proceeds." That is what prompted her to participate in its meetings and in drafting its program to ensure that the principles and aims binding on the authority council have been prepared and drafted by numerous people from among the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Responding to a statement by a Palestinian oppositionist, in which he said that in joining the authority council 'Ashrawi is exercising oneupmanship over the opposition, she said: "It has nothing to do with oneupmanship at all. I am not an oppositionist. Nor am I part of the authority. I am just part of society. And I believe that the language of oneupmanship have gone and been overtaken by events." [passage omitted]

Police Chief Refuses To Hand Over Collaborators

TA2905071394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] The head of the Palestinian police, General Nasr Yusuf, says his forces will refuse to hand over to Israel Palestinians who committed crimes against Israelis and sought refuge in the self-rule areas. Yusuf, speaking to reporters in Gaza, says the Palestinian police will arrest and charge the killers of two Arabs suspected of cooperating with Israel in Gaza over the weekend. The police sent representatives to their funerals and have launched an investigation into the killings. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] claimed responsibility for the deaths despite its agreement last month to suspend attacks on so called collaborators.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 29 May reports that "General Yusuf said that the Palestinian police would issue gun permits to residents of the autonomy, but ascertain that the gun would only use their weapons to protect their homes and not carry them in the street."]

Al-Rujub: All Palestinians Must Honor Agreement

TA2705183794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 May 94

[Report by correspondent Uri Revah]

[Excerpt] Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service in the West Bank, told our correspondent he will salute the peace opponents if they win the elections in the autonomy. Al-Rujub visited the Bedouin town of Laqiya in the Negev today. Our correspondent Uri Revah met him there:

[Begin recording] [Revah] Jibril al-Rujub and Muhammad Dahlan, the heads of the Palestinian security service, were invited to Laqiya by Knesset Member [MK] Talib al-Sani', a local resident. The Hebron massacre and the death of a demonstrator during the ensuing riots in Rahat tightened the links between the Bedouins and the Palestinians, according to MK al-Sani'. Al-Rujub denied he has said that the opponents of the agreement are entitled to continue the armed struggle.

[Al-Rujub] I said that all citizens must honor the agreement signed by the PLO, because the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Soon we will have elections, and if they score success we will salute them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Supplies, Cars for Police Cross Border at Rafah

NC2905155994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] Rafah, 29 May (MENA)—Six trucks loaded with weapons, ammunition, other supplies, foodstuffs, tents, and equipment, and a number of light vehicles for the Palestinian police force, crossed Rafah border point this afternoon to reinforce the Palestinian security forces in the self-rule regions.

Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Mahayidah, commander of the Palestinian forces in Rafah, said 250 Palestinian policemen coming from Algeria are due to enter Rafah tomorrow, Monday.

He said negotiations will be held with Israel on the Rafah and Jericho crossing points with a view to completing technical preparations there before handing them over to the Palestinian National Authority.

Shots Fired at Policemen Guarding Jericho Synagogue

TA3005055694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] In Jericho, several shots were fired last night from a moving car at Palestinian policemen on guard outside the Shalom 'Al Yisra'el Synagogue. No one was injured. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the policemen reported the incident to a joint patrol, which stopped a suspicious car in connection with the incident. The investigation is continuing.

Hamas 'Turned Down' Offer of 4 Self-Rule Seats

PM0106161494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jun 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "We Turned Down 'Arafat Offer to Participate with Four Seats in Authority"]

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior Hamas official has stressed that his movement turned down an offer from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to participate in the self-rule authority.

Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, has said: "I would like to point out that Yasir 'Arafat sent (Fatah Central Committee member) 'Abbas Zaki to meet with Hamas officials. And that Zaki conveyed to Muhammad Nazzal (Hamas representative in Amman) 'Arafat's offer to grant Hamas four seats only."

But according to Ghawshah, the offer was completely rejected, "because we refuse to participate in the authority, proceeding from our rejection of the self-rule agreements, as they perpetuate the occupation of Arab territory in Palestine." [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman on Arms Collection, Autonomy

JN0106195994 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 31 May-6 Jun 94 pp 24, 10

[Interview with Dr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Hamas Movement, by Samih al-Ma'ayitah in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Ma'ayitah] The topical issue is how Hamas will deal with the self-rule authority. The Movement has to choose between confrontation, understanding, or a truce. What option have the Movement's bodies adopted?

[Ghawshah] This issue is complex and wide-ranging. I will try to discuss the basic topics dealing with it. First, let us say that the stage of theorization about what stand Hamas will adopt if the Palestinian authority is imposed and the Palestinian police enters the self-rule areas is over. All the Palestinian forces, those who supported or opposed the peace process which started in Madrid and ended with the Cairo agreement are now treading on a minefield. They all should think before taking any step to avoid an explosion that would destroy everything. Hamas has taken measures to counter this stage. The Hamas Movement has resorted to all that is in its power to confront the march of capitulation which began in Madrid, and succeeded in obstructing and delaying this march. There is a mighty force behind this process, represented by the United States, the Zionist forces, and the regimes loyal to them, and these forces succeded in imposing the Cairo and Oslo agreement on the Palestinian people. The hands of the clock cannot be set back, but we can make proposals that would prevent the explosion and at least limit the losses. We in the Hamas Movement approach the Palestinian authority and the police force with caution. We will judge them on the basis of their deeds and not their words, especially sweet talk which is rife at the present time. We believe that avoiding confrontation is a national and religious duty by which all should abide.

The Hamas Movement has translated this into a political stand and decision not to confront the Palestinian authority and police force. We will deal with them in a civilized and peaceful manner by highlighting the mistakes, secrets, and loopholes in the Cairo and Oslo agreements and mobilizing the masses and forces in and outside the territories to reject this agreement and foil it with civilized methods. This is the stand of the Palestinian opposition, represented in the Alliance of Palestinian Forces. The Palestinian police force is part of the Palestinian people. Most of its members are from the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] and had fought the Zionists in many places, particularly in Lebanon during the Zionist invasion of that country. We are fully convinced and we know that this police force has decided not to confront the Palestinian people with bullets. But the overwhelming circumstances to which I referred at the beginning of the interview have forced the PLA to become a police force that carries out joint patrols with the Jews, and whose members eat with the Jews and live with them and normalize their relations with them. We are fully convinced that the members of this police force will not open fire on the children of the stones or the strugglers whose role has been instrumental in achieving the partial withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and whose role will also be instrumental in achieving any future withdrawal from the West Bank. This has taken place thanks to the blood they had shed and their sacrifices and not as a result of the intelligence and ability of the negotiators.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] A few months ago, Hamas used to call the Palestinian police force as a Lahd army. Now you speak positively about it and somewhat praise it. Is this a retraction or is there something new?

[Ghawshah] Hamas never described the Palestinian police force as a Lahd army. We said that this force supposedly should be part of the Palestinian people. We also said that if the cadres which head this police force make it stand against its people, protect the settlements and bestows legitimacy on the Zionist occupation, then this police force will become like the Lahd army. That's why Hamas will act on the basis of deeds and not words.

The Palestinian people welcomed this police force because it means they no longer have to deal with the occupation. They emotionally welcomed this police force bearing in mind too its previous militant background. There is a secret struggle between good elements and the other elements within this police force. An example of this is the officer who prevented the Zionist commander of the southern front from entering the Palestinian area. Unfortunately, this officer was arrested and will be tried. Other Palestinian opposition members were also arrested. The question of weapons will be the test that will show what are the real intentions of the command of the Palestinian police force.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Major General Nasr Yusuf has made a statement on the issue of arms collection. As for yourself, you have said that this issue is taboo and a red line. Do you believe that Maj. Gen. Yusuf's statement was meant to be implemented? Or do you think it was made merely for media purposes?

[Ghawshah] The Hamas Movement knows Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf well. He is a member of the Fatah Central Committee. He took part in previous dialogues between Fatah and Hamas. He signed the Khartoum agreement on 4 January 1993. It is our hope that the police command and Maj. Gen. Nasr will uphold the ideas he set forth during these closed meetings, the ideas regarding his support for the Palestinian people, as well as his respect for and willingness to protect all Palestinian mujahidin.

The arms issue is indeed sensitive and important. It constitutes a red line. There are various weapons at stake. The most important of these are the weapons used by the mujahidin affiliated with the al-Qassam Battalions and other Palestinian forces. These weapons were only used in resistance to occupation troops and settlers. Everybody is well aware that weapons are dear to the mujahidin. The mujahidin's weapons are sacred. They should remain in the hands of the mujahidin. The mujahidin's right to bear arms is enshrined in all temporal charters and heavenly faiths. Additionally, the collection of arms from the Palestinian people is unacceptable. This is because it should be unacceptable to

disarm the Palestinian people as long as there are occupation troops, settlements, and settlers on our territory. How can the Palestinian policemen disarm the Palestinian people, and allow settlers to move freely with their weapons in the autonomous areas?

The Palestinian people were disarmed in 1948 and 1967, and the results were catastrophic. That is why Hamas contended that disarming people is a red line that should not be crossed.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] What about the Hamas Movement's military activities since the start of efforts to implement the autonomy agreement?

[Ghawshah] The Hamas Movement has explained that it will uphold its principled Islamic jihad stand. Our jihad will continue as long as the occupation of our territories is maintained. The questions posed in this regard are the following: Have the autonomous areas been fully liberated? Has there been complete withdrawal? The answer is that there has been no complete withdrawal from the autonomous areas, particularly the Gaza Strip. For the Zionists are occupying more than 20 percent of the area of the Gaza Strip, particularly the Gush Qatif area, in which there are 16 settlements and 5,000 settlers. The selection of Zionist targets for attacks is made at the operations room of the al-Qassam Battalions in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Palestinian territories occupied in 1948.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Has Hamas thought of launching an opposition political party? Has it considered the idea of cooperating with some forces and figures to launch such a party so that it may deal politically with the self-rule authority?

[Ghawshah] Various reports and rumors have circulated regarding the formation of some parties. It seems that Fatah will launch some parties in cooperation with several independent figures so that it may impose its political hegemony in the autonomous areas.

The question posed in this regard is: Will Fatah allow elbow room for other political forces? As regards the Hamas Movement, this issue is under consideration, particularly since it was dictated by the developments of the current phase. However, the launching of parties has its pros and cons; and the cons might outweigh the pros. The launching of parties that implicitly approve the Palestinian-Israeli agreement might be facilitated.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Hamas has declared its rejection of an offer made by 'Arafat to take part in the self-rule authority. 'Arafat is well aware of the principled Hamas stand in this regard. How then do you explain this offer by 'Arafat?

[Ghawshah] The offer to involve us in this authority was communicated to us by 'Abbas Zaki. The Hamas Movement examined the offer immediately. Hamas decided to refuse to take part in the self-rule authority in line with its rejection of the Cairo agreement. Zaki offered us a number of seats on the self-rule authority council equal to the number to be allocated for Fatah. This is reminiscent of the tactics the Fatah Movement and 'Arafat used when the issue of Hamas' joining the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council was debated.

Our explanation of this offer, and all other offers by 'Arafat, for that matter, is that they are always made within the context of the carrot and stick policy he pursues. Threats always accompany his offers. He always warns of his ability to penetrate the factions with which he negotiates. There are attempts to involve several independent Islamists in the Palestinian self-rule authority council to insinuate that some Islamists accept self-rule. Using threats, he is laying the grounds for penetration; and this is something we are capable of handling. Any surprises or deception tactics citing the dispute over the number of seats on the self-rule authority council will be exposed.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] A few days ago, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau noted the existence of differences and trends within Hamas, and that thanks to certain PLO figures some Hamas figures are taking a positive approach to the agreement. There had been further such talk before that. What is the true state of affairs?

[Ghawshah] I heard these statements on Radio Monte Carlo last Friday. Pelletreau was said to be thrilled with the news of a split within Hamas, brought on thanks to the efforts of some PLO figures. As a spokesman for Hamas, let me tell you the reports are groundless. Hamas is a monolith. Throughout its jihad history, the movement has been shown to be solidly united. The movement was founded on Islam and an adherence to the constants of the Palestinian people. I am told that 'Arafat was heard by a Fatah Central Committee member saying saying that he was baffled by Hamas. All the efforts made to entice the movement into joining hands with the PLO so as to share the responsibility for the Madrid, Oslo, and Cairo agreements, and the Washington talks came to nothing. I am positive the Tunis leadership will fail to attract or infiltrate any Hamas leaders or rank and file.

The Tunis leadership has managed to cause splits in other factions, but these lack the moral fiber and organization that sets Hamas apart. All rumors of splits within Hamas have proved unfounded.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Palestinian factions have long been bedeviled by the complexities of the link between their interior and foreign-based cadres, with those inside the occupied territories receiving instructions from the leadership in exile. What has Hamas done to get around such complications?

[Ghawshah] As for 'Arafat's Fatah, the strings are pulled by leaders based outside the homeland. 'Arafat has personalized Fatah. Hamas, on the other hand, was founded on Islamic principles and a clear vision, thus affording it the required resilience and flexibility to

withstand intense pressure and tackle heavy blows received both inside and outside the homeland.

The Tunis leadership has sought to capitalize on the crises and ordeals that Hamas has been through in the inside to penetrate the movement. Fatah attempted to get through to Ahmad Yasin in prison and fabricated news and scenarios to put our movement and its credibility in a bad light.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] It is now three years since the opposition was launched under the name of the 10 factions, and, more recently, the Alliance of Palestinian Factions [APF] was formed. Don't you think that this is as far as these factions will go—a ceiling that is not measuring up to the challenges?

[Ghawshah] You may recall that in late 1993, following the signing of the Oslo accord, Hamas pressed for a provisional Palestinian leadership to take over. Regrettably, however, a number of the Palestinian factions had their sights set too low. We were so anxious for the 10 factions' formula to get off the ground that we went along with a formula based on political tasks rather than a political agenda, governed by a majority consensus rather than unanimity. We knew that this was not exactly the right formula, and hoped that it will be developed. Hamas, however, found itself a loner in the field, particularly regarding the intifadah and militarily. When they demanded that a combined nationalist-Islamic command be instituted inside the homeland, we demanded confidence-building initiatives on their part. For example, having refused to consider an alliance with Islamic forces in the elections for the Dentists Association in Gaza so that we may beat the capitulationist candidates, the democratic forces should not go on to call for a unified command. How can can there be a unified command if these other factions are not active in terms of jihad and the intifadah. This and other obstacles have stood in the way of refining the APF's formula.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Some people accuse you of arrogance and attempting to dominate, and hold you responsible for the failure of developing the APF formula.

[Ghawshah] Yes, we are accused. Some factions have inherited such attitudes from 'Arafat's Fatah and are trying to repeat them in their dealing with Hamas, although facts on the ground indicate that Hamas has made more sacrifices than others and is less prejudiced than other factions. Therefore, it agreed to participate in the APF to preserve the unity of the opposition. Regrettably, whenever Hamas finds itself in a crisis as a result of the Zionist-U.S. onslaught inside and outside [the occupied territories], these factions fish in murky water and direct their arrows at the movement. We admit that some factions trust Hamas and give it every support. The APF formula needs reformulation in light of new factors. It may be better to establish a wide opposition front during the next stage—a front which has a definite concept and in which every one in the occupied territories takes part with all his might—and to activate the Palestinian diaspora. The Palestinian people in the diaspora, however, are the big losers.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Is Hamas' decision to continue the intifadah still valid or is it under study and reconsideration?

[Ghawshah] There is no doubt that the new era, as well as epitomizing the self-rule on the ground, will affect the intifadah, which is aimed at ending the occupation. As a result, the intifadah activity will drop in areas from which the Zionist forces withdraw. However, the intifadah's activities are numerous. Some activities are expected to reduce in the self-rule area after the end of the occupation, and some other activities will lead to friction with the self-rule authority and its supporters. The Hamas Movement will study and assess these matters, as well as intifadah activities, to secure the desired results and eliminate negative factors. Hamas may call for the reduction of some intifadah activities that have no impact on the overall conflict with the Zionists, especially within the self-rule area. But jihad and resistance will continue against the occupation everywhere.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Is Hamas satisfied by the interaction of Islamic peoples and movements with the intifadah and Hamas' role?

[Ghawshah] We are in constant touch with Arab and Islamic peoples. Most of these people strongly support the intifadah and jihad in Palestine, and we know well that large sectors of these peoples sympathize with Hamas.

Regarding Arab and Islamic parties and movements, we feel that they are short of supporting the intifadah and jihad of the Palestinian people, including the Hamas Movement. What is really painful is that many Islamic movements are so preoccupied with their own concerns and issues that they cannot pay enough attention to the Palestine question, while everybody knows that the Zionist enemy exploits every loophole. It jumps to Indonesia, Qatar, and Oman and takes root in Egypt. The Palestine question should be listed at the top of the agenda of the Islamic movements because the Zionist danger threatens every one. Some movements, which try to court the West and the United States, are despised and humiliated by the West. Some movements have not defined their stand on the Gaza-Jericho accord and some others support it to win U.S. approval. We are with political flexibility that does not encroach on principles.

The Islamic movements in the cordon states have a basic role to play in supporting jihad activity undertaken by Hamas inside Palestine. These movements's political, popular, and militant performance has not reached the level required in the Islamic and political arenas.

Fatah Official: Time 'Not Yet Come' To Withdraw Arms

PM0106145594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 May 94 p 3

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Fatah Leadership Has Not Issued Decision To Withdraw Palestinians' Arms"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki has stressed that he has obtained assurances from leaders of the Palestinian forces opposed to the Oslo accord to prevent "Palestinian infighting." He said that he had urged them to "coordinate among themselves on fundamental issues like settlements, Jerusalem, and the refugees' return." [passage omitted]

'Abbas Zaki denied that Fatah has issued a decision to withdraw arms from the Palestinians, "especially as there are armed Israelis outside the police and the Army.... When there is incomplete sovereignty over Gaza and Jericho and a partner participating in ruling these areas, it is extremely difficult to apply the decision to Jericho or Gaza, or to the Palestinians and not the settlers." However, he pointed out that there is a big differences between a decision issued by Fatah and "a process conducted here or there and which we tackle in time.... We might withdraw arms from those who err, but to eliminate arms completely without any guarantees and while there are armed people outside the Israeli police—that would be an unjust decision. And we cannot take such a decision." He added: "The time has not yet come to withdraw the arms. We will withdraw them when we take direct responsibility for the area without anyone's participation." [passage omitted]

Fatah Scores Victory in Bethlehem U. Elections

TA0106073194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Fatah has scored a decisive victory in student union elections at Bethlehem University. Fatah received six out of nine seats in the union. George Habash's Popular Front received two seats, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] one seat.

Bank of Palestine Branch Dedicated in Jericho

TA0106183794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The first branch of Bank of Palestine was inaugurated in Jericho at noon today. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Abu-'Ata al-Shawwa from Gaza, the bank's director, said that two more bank branches will soon open in the West Bank.

Algeria

FIS Sources Note Strained Ties With AIG

PM2505105194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Algeria: Salvation Front Accuses Islamic Group of Trying To Impose Its Influence Over It by Force"]

[Excerpts] London—Political sources in Algeria noted yesterday the continuation of the confusion over the statement issued by the Armed Islamic Group [AIG], in which it said that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and the Islamic State Movement [ISM] had been unified under its leadership. They said that no official denial has been distributed by the groups operating under the FIS' banner—which increases confusion among the ranks of Islamic oppositionists.

However, sources close to the FIS have stressed to AL-HAYAH that the relationship with the AIG is strained and presages clashes between the two sides. The sources complained about what they termed "the lack of discipline among the group's elements and their promotion of repudiationist and extremist views threatening the unity of the mujahidin and the Algerian people." They pointed out that the straw that "broke the camel's back" was the AIG elements' attempt to impose their influence by force over FIS elements. The FIS accuses the AIG of being "infiltrated" by Algerian security organs, and of being run from outside the country by foreign quarters promoting "an extremist ideology combining al-salafiyah [Islamic reform movement], political jihad, and repudiation of society," according to an Algeria leading figure.

The leading figure pointed out that most of the AIG's cadres "came from Afghanistan and did not participate with the FIS in its political action before the January 1992 coup," which was followed by the cancellation of the elections following which the FIS nearly assumed power.

He stressed "the existence of a scheme being implemented by Algerian security organs using AIG elements with or without the AIG's knowledge, with a view to introducing the AIG as an alternative to the FIS, which peacefully persuaded the Algerian people to espouse the Islamic plan and presented to them a political, socialist, and economic program." He added that security organs know that "the Algerian people will abandon the Islamic plan if it is promoted by a group of uneducated people promoting repudiationist ideas and who are fighting just for the sake of fighting and who believe that an Islamic state can only be set up by force."

He added: "The ruling clique tried to cancel the FIS' existence when it issued an administrative decision to disband it. But it has continued to derive its legitimacy from the people, who have given it their confidence. And they are now trying to cancel it by replacing it with a deviationist group." [passage omitted]

The leading figures said the FIS is making contacts with Islamic leaderships abroad to urge them to suspend the support the AIG receives from some quarters. However he was pessimistic about that. He said: "Most of these quarters are mysterious, and the world Islamic movement itself is suffering at their hands. They are new on the scene and do not respect senior ulema, so it is difficult to deal with them." He pointed out that an AIG thinker named Mus'ab al-Suri, who worked in Afghanistan in the past and now lives in Spain, records tapes attacking the FIS and its programs for political change and accusing Cheikhs Abbasi Madani and Ali Behadj of deception because they accepted the principle of democracy and of turning to the people.

He cited an incident he described as "serious" which took place in Tiaret province in southern central Algeria, as a group from the AIG attacked a camp belonging to the Islamic Front and held a number of its covert action activists. [passage omitted]

Army Takes Over Bab El Oued Police Station

PM2605141194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Army Occupies Police Station Headed by Armed Group Leader"]

[Excerpt] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Reliable sources told AL-HAYAH in Algiers yesterday that Army units had occupied a police station in the capital after discovering that its head is the amir [leader] of an armed group.

The sources pointed out that the Army discovered the armed cell in a police station covering the Bab El Oued district in the capital. The sources added that the head of the station in Bab El Oued is the amir of an armed group that has carried out several terrorist operations in the area. The Army, some of whose units occupied the police station, has begun an investigation into the clues of the armed groups' infiltration of security units. Information not confirmed by security sources indicates that the armed groups are indeed infiltrating security services and "recruiting" some "security men."

Meanwhile, Republican Guard units supported by tanks continue to besiege the Ben Zerga-Bordj El Bahri area, 15 km northeast of the capital. Eyewitnesses told AL-HAYAH that security forces, which included elements from the gendarmerie and the Republican Guard, have destroyed a center used by an "armed group" believed to be linked with the assassination of former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah.

At another level, the "al-Nasr Battalion" belonging to the "Islamic Salvation Army" has denied the contents of the statement issued by the "Armed Islamic Group"

about the unification of the Islamic Salvation Front and the Islamic State Movement under its banner. [passage omitted]

Teachers Stop Work To Commemorate Murdered Director

LD0206093494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Salah Djebaili, director of Bab Ezzouar university who was assassinated 31 May, is to be buried today in his home town of Khenchela. Teachers and students had a last look at the deceased whose coffin was displayed yesterday evening in the university's main hall.

The National Association of Professors and Lecturers called on all teachers and employees in all universities to stop work yesterday and today. University employees and teachers were also called on to meet at Bab Ezzouar university at 1000 next Saturday to organize a march at the university campus.

Foreign 'Speculation' Over Nation's Future Viewed

LD2905014794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 May 94

[Announcer-read commentary]

[Text] At a time when Algeria is making every possible effort to solve all the problems of its multifaceted crisis, statements emerge from overseas trying to turn Algeria into a test ground and political laboratory in an attempt to cover blatantly their rivalry over Algeria and the region.

It is normal for crises to occur in societies and states, but the increasing number of those who have ambitions in Algeria is not normal.

Circles and institutes in capitals of world superpowers made various speculations about our future. But the prescription they have made out for us to pull through the crisis does not succeed in concealing the political, economic, and financial interests of these circles themselves. This prescription might then be described as a talisman of interests by contemporary oracles competing to interpret Algeria's crisis according to their self interests.

It is true Algeria is in need of economic help to carry out a series of comprehensive economic reforms to pull through the crisis. Algeria has negotiated with international institutions in this regard and for this purpose. The president made this clear in his meeting with the diplomatic corps by saying Algeria's crisis was not eternal but a temporary one Algeria was capable of pulling through.

We should, nevertheless, wonder about the responsibility and duty of international institutions that supposedly are a result of civilized international relations. Algeria's strategic and economic weight is very well known to governments and investors who are leading the free economy or the market economy on a world scale.

Algeria's standing in the whole of North Africa should not be underestimated, and its stability positively reflects on the whole region. In fact statements that interfere in our internal affairs—statements that unfortunately are sometimes reported by our newspapers—only prove the importance of Algeria. Algeria is not an American-European spoil of war. Algeria today is composed of a number of functional institutions and efforts are being made to combat the ordeal from which Algeria is emerging.

Egypt

'Muslim Militant' Shoots Policeman in South

NC0206054694 Paris AFP in English 2103 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, June 1 (AFP)—A suspected Muslim militant shot and seriously wounded a policeman in southern Egypt late Wednesday, a source close to the security services said.

Salim Muhammad, a railway policeman, was in charge of security on the Cairo to Aswan train when he was shot as it left the station in Abu Mawas, in the al-Minya Province in Upper Egypt, 270 kilometres (167 miles) south of Cairo.

Security services launched a manhunt, after his attacker fled the scene, the source added.

Asyut is a stronghold for militants who have waged a two-year campaign to topple the secular government of President Husni Mubarak, which has left more than 400 dead, including policemen.

But until recently al-Minya had not witnessed many clashes between security forces and militants.

Muslim Brotherhood Denies Link With Lawyers Demonstration

NC0106200694 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Khalid Salah and 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Mun'im]

[Excerpts] Diya'-al-Din Dawud, secretary general of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party and People's Assembly member, on Sunday presented an urgent enquiry to the prime minister and the interior minister on the recent incidents in the Lawyers Association and the circumstances surrounding the mysterious death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani. [passage omitted]

The incidents at the Lawyers Association continue to draw political reactions. Within the attempts of the

Muslim Brotherhood to avoid a clash with the government—a clash that appeared increasingly likely in the past weeks—Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr has denied any responsibility for his group in stirring up and leading the demonstration that was staged by the lawyers a few weeks ago to protest the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani hours after his arrest late last month.

In statements to AL-'ARABI, Abu-al-Nasr said the Muslim Brotherhood was falsely blamed for the Lawyers Association incidents. He said the Muslim Brotherhood "has nothing to do with the associations and does not interfere in their affairs!" He explained the attacks on the Muslim Brotherhood in the government media as a continuation of statements President Mubarak made to the German magazine DER SPIEGEL, in which he accused the banned Muslim Brotherhood of supporting terrorism. Following those statements by the president, Abu-al-Nasr said, the official media "rushed to launch a strong attack against us, and even blamed us for the Lawyers Association incidents!"

Security forces yesterday arrested five Muslim Brotherhood members. They were referred to the prosecution, which decided to remand them for two weeks for interrogation.

Opposition Withdraws From National Dialogue Committee

Wafd Party Lists Objections

NC0106212594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2057 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—The Wafd Party has withdrawn from the committee in charge of preparation for national dialogue.

AL-WAFD newspaper says in the issue for tomorrow, Thursday, that Wafd Party Leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din announced his withdrawal after a speech he delivered to the committee in its (?first) meeting in a People's Assembly Hall this morning, Wednesday.

The paper says that in his speech, Siraj-al-Din objected to the way the committee was formed and to the exclusion of political and constitutional reforms from the topics of the dialogue.

Nasirite Party Suspends Participation

NC0106194894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—The Nasirite Arab Democratic Party announced a freeze on its participation in the committee in charge of preparation for national dialogue.

In a statement today, the party announced a freeze on its participation in the dialogue until the approach to this dialogue, its topics, and the parties involved in it are reviewed. The statement said that the committee in charge of preparing for the dialogue was formed in full violation of the agreement reached among the political parties. According to the statement, the committee was supposed to be formed after consultations among political parties and not by a National Democratic Party decision.

Defense Minister Attends Drill, Comments

NC0106202294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, said that the armed forces are currently undergoing a giant modernization process according to annual, five-year, and long-term plans that depend on local resources and friendly states.

Having attended the "Bahir 94" live ammunition maneuvers conducted by an armored formation of the 2d Field Army today, the defense minister said: We are not developing our armed forces to antagonize anybody, because we are at peace with all our neighbors. He pointed out that the goal of this modernization is to ensure the preparedness of our armed forces for accomplishing their task of defending national security.

Field Marshal Tantawi said: Our only task in peacetime is to train our armed forces cadres to ensure their optimal combat efficiency. The more peace is established, the better training can be at all levels.

We seek to achieve balance between the human element and armaments to enable individuals to use modern and sophisticated weapons, Tantawi said. He added that the numbers of combat elements in the armed forces are currently being increased against those working in the service or administrative sectors. He affirmed that the numbers of the armed forces will not be decreased, emphasizing: We seek to achieve the optimal use of available manpower.

The defense minister pointed out that there are no plans to cut the term of military service for new recruits, noting that the armed forces recruit the number of individuals they need. He explained that the surplus recruits are absorbed into the national service apparatus, which seeks to achieve self-sufficiency for the armed forces.

Field Marshal Tantawi said that the armed forces have an excellent mobilization plan that ensures shifting from a condition of peace to one of war in record time.

The defense minister called for paying more attention to military training, noting that sophisticated armaments need first-rate training. We have to stretch the shelf-life of old weapons. We have to enhance their efficiency and upgrade them to the level of modern weapons, he said.

He stressed that commanders and officers of different ranks should be given the opportunity to make decisions

to cope with developments in order to develop their sense of initiative and creativity. Tantawi called for enhancing the combat efficiency and preparedness of the armed forces and for raising fighters' morale through constant training, discipline, and physical fitness.

The military drill incorporated armored formations from the 2d Field Army with elements from the Air Force, Air Defense, and Electronic and Chemical War and units from the engineering and airborne divisions.

In the drill, our troops checked a hostile offensive action and forced the attacking forces to retreat to the international borders, inflicting heavy losses on them.

The exercise began with reconnaissance sorties in which our troops gathered information on the condition of the hostile forces. In the meantime, our forces destroyed hostile aircraft that tried to reconnoiter our positions.

The (Shilka) and Chaparral antiaircraft missiles were used in the exercise. This is the first time the firing process has been conducted from training aircraft outside the air defense firing range. The shooting was conducted under conditions identical to those prevailing in a real war. The antiaircraft ballistic units dealt with the enemy's armored units to destroy them and secure our forces' lines. Our artillery bombarded the enemy artillery and silenced their sources.

Our aircraft attacked the depth of the enemy defenses to destroy its artillery and armored pieces. Our artillery units prepared for the advance of the bulk of our troops by constant bombardment and smoke screens.

Combat units opened gaps in the enemy's mine fields, using the Egyptian-made al-Fatih missiles, which proved their high efficiency during the Gulf war. Our troops then advanced into the depth of the enemy's lines, while our air defenses were checking attacks by the enemy's air force using the (Shilka) missiles, characterized by the ability to deal with air targets while moving.

Our artillery succeeded in silencing the enemy's reserve artillery deep in the lines by firing long distance. It also succeeded in destroying the enemy's armored vehicles, using highly-explosive ammunition with the help of antitank helicopters.

MI-8 helicopters were meanwhile landing paratroopers behind the enemy's artillery lines to create a gap in its defenses. A Buffalo aircraft loaded with antitank weapons landed on the battlefield to replenish our troops' supply of ammunition.

Our troops finally managed to control the territory that was seized by the enemy, forcing its troops to retreat. [passage omitted]

Information Minister on New Television Channels

NC2705135494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 May 94

[Excerpts] As part of celebrations marking media day, President Husni Mubarak will inaugurate Channel Three of the central delta on Monday. The channel will begin experimental transmission for four hours per day, gradually increasing to eight hours per day in June, until it finally reaches full transmission in October.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that Channel Seven will begin transmission in al-Minya in President Mubarak's presence. The president inaugurated the first stage of that project last October.

As for the Egyptian international channel, Nile TV, the information minister said that it transmits two hours daily at present. This will be increased to six hours, using the European satellite [not further specified]. He added that preparations are underway to expand this channel to African areas via Arabsat by the end of 1994. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif added that a strategic project will be submitted to President Mubarak. This project is the Egyptian satellite, for which studies have been completed by French and U.S. firms. The satellite will have between 12 and 56 channels. Al-Sharif hopes that work on the project will start before the end of this year so that the satellite can be launched by the end of 1996. [passage omitted]

Sixth Channel Begins Transmission

NC2905164394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today gave the signal for the start of transmissions by the sixth television channel, which broadcasts from Tanta and covers the governorates of al-Gharbiyah, al-Minufiyah, al-Daqahliyah, Dumyat, and Kafr al-Shaykh. [passage omitted]

OAU Secretary General Arrives in Cairo for Talks

NC2905205794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—OAU Secretary General Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim arrived in Cairo this evening. In an arrival statement, Salim said that he will meet with President Husni Mubarak to discuss a number of important issues and the preparations for the 31st African summit conference, which will be held in Tunis next month. He indicated that he will also meet with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Salim expressed concern at the failure to find peaceful solutions to problems facing the African continent. He explained that the situation in Rwanda is keeps getting more serious. He expressed the view that the United Nations must be urged to try to stop the fighting and

discuss the possibility of a peaceful settlement in coordination with the OAU and the African states, which in turn are making efforts in this respect.

Regarding the developments in Yemen, Salim said that the situation there has become extremely complicated. A solution must be reached quickly to end the conflict and maintain unity.

Mubarak Receives Message From Saudi King

LD3105210194 Riyadh SPA in English 1945 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 31, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has sent a message to president Husni Mubarak of Egypt.

The message was handed over by Prince Saud al-Faysal, the foreign minister who was received by President Mubarak here on Tuesday.

Following the meeting, Prince Saud said the message dealt with the constant coordination and consultation between the two leaders. He termed the meeting as a good opportunity to congratulate President Mubarak on the early success of the conference of the Non-Aligned Movement which was started in Cairo earlier in the day and highlighted the inaugural speech delivered by President Mubarak before the opening session.

Asked on whether he discussed the Yemen crisis with the President Prince Saud said both King Fahd and President Mubarak have shown much concern on the painful fighting between the Yemeni brothers and they urged the conflicting parties to stop fighting with the hope that all concerned parties would respond to the appeal.

Prince Saud expressed hope that the U.N. Security Council would adopt an effective resolution for ceasefire in Yemen and added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would support any measure that would lead to ceasefire and end of the war.

Meanwhile, Prince Saud told reporters following the opening session of the conference of foreign ministers of non-aligned countries of the great importance of the role that should be undertaken by the Non-Aligned Movement towards the new international developments.

Referring to criticism that the role of the Movement has been diminished and become less effective in international affairs, Prince Saud cited remarks made by President Mubarak on the matter in his comprehensive speech at the opening session on the matter that the role of the Non-Aligned Movement should deal dynamically with the new international reality and, that the movement should deal with rational and realistic approachs.

Citing prospects that the Non-Aligned Movement would concentrate on economic affairs rather than political ones, prince said the the Group of 77, assigned by the Movement, is tackling economic issues. He added that a number of proposals on the role of the movement would be discussed in a special session.

Prince Saud expressed support for enlargement of the role of the Movement in the United Nations on international peace and security both in the Security Council and the General Assembly to ensure fair handling of international issues.

"The problem is not on whether to increase the represenation of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Security Council, but matters concerning the identification of the Security Council and how it should deals with its duties should also be raised." he said.

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC2805093994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Hamed Karoui arrived in Cairo today on a two-day official visit to Egypt.

On his arrival, Karoui stated that he was carrying a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message is part of the continuous consultations between the leaders on bilateral relations, Arab and Middle East issues, and the African summit, which is scheduled to convene in Tunis in June.

Karoui said he will inform President Mubarak of the Tunisian president's views and will hear President Mubarak's views on African and international issues.

Answering a question on the situation in Yemen, he said that developments there are regrettable. He added: We were hoping to put the Arab house in order, but we haven't lost hope yet. We would like the United Nations to resolve this issue despite the fact that there are numerous issues that the United Nations has not been able to resolve. We hope the brothers in Yemen will manage to find a way to unite once again.

Karoui refused to comment on the secession of south Yemen. He expressed his hope that the Yemenis will find a solution amongst themselves.

The Tunisian prime minister concluded his statement by saying that his country will take part in the conference of the Nonaligned countries' foreign ministers scheduled to convene in Cairo on Tuesday [31 May].

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa greeted Karoui upon his arrival.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2805102794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] This morning President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at the presidential headquarters Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, who arrived in

Cairo today. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Debt Service in Budget To Exceed 21 Billion Pounds

NC0106131994 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 May 94 p 1

[Text] Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz has stated that 21.446 billion pounds will be earmarked for servicing the internal and external debts in the new budget, which will begin on 1 July. Dr. al-Razzaz pointed out that the treasury bills make up most of the internal debts owed by the government. He stressed the importance of the treasury bills in streamlining the budget deficit and absorbing the surplus in the country, whether from individuals or banks, to reduce inflation. The minister also stressed the importance of the treasury bills in stopping the drop in interest rates on savings in Egyptian pounds and in maintaining the rates of exchange.

Dr. al-Razzaz added that the state is spending 1.5 billion pounds to adjust the financial structure of the Egyptian railway and 220 millions to extend electricity to the countryside.

Loan Signed To Develop Private Small Industries

NC0106161294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—Egypt and the European Investment Bank [EIB] have signed an agreement granting Egypt a 120-million-pound loan to be allocated completely to private small industries.

Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, and EIB Deputy Director Robert Dillon signed the agreement.

Dr. Ghali pointed out that the agreement is within the context of the government's efforts to consolidate the private sector and emphasize its crucial role in economic development in Egypt. He added that the loan is a significant first step in the government's efforts to guarantee the provision of the financial instruments needed for developing the private sector, like long-term and easy loans to suit small industries employing a maximum of 10 workers. He remarked that small industries are the backbone of the policy that aims to increase production and employment rates.

Libya

General People's Committee Condemns Israeli Actions

LD2705173094 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] A source at the General People's Committee for Unity made the following statement:

The Zionist enemy continues its ongoing aggression against the Arab nation, thus violating its sovereignty and territories, using to this end its arsenal and weapons of destruction that are supplied to it by Western states, at their forefront the U.S. Government. This represents a blatant defiance against all international resolutions. What is more, they intensify this plot whenever they wish to impose more hegemony against Arab regimes and against the will of the masses that reject defeat and submission.

The violations and aggression taking place these days against the sovereignty of Lebanon and its Arab people should be used as a means to resist all attempts of submission and the imposition of the fait accompli. This should be faced up to with a responsibility as stipulated by Arab charters, foremost of which the Arab joint defense accord; there should be an end to the aggression and barbaric attacks of the Israelis that target civilians as well as undermining the spirit of the fierce resistance against the Zionist presence and occupation.

The General People's Committee for Unity in the Great Jamahiriyah, stemming from the pillars of the revolution of the Great al-Fatih, and in implementation of the resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses that stressed the need to confront the continuing imperialist-backed Israeli aggression against the Arab nation, denounces the Israeli terrorism that is represented in the continuing occupation of Arab territories stretching from Southern Lebanon to the Golan Heights and the region of Um al-Rafrash. It also denounces the practice of hostilities and kidnap of civilians; yet nobody dares to restrain the Israelis from carrying out such practices. We call for the implementation of Arab charters and accords to face up to this aggression.

Unity Committee Secretary Addresses Working Group

LD2605195694 Tripoli JANA in English 1737 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, al Maa'[May] 26 JANA (Arab Maghreb Union Pool)—The secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Unity met with the members of the Libyan-Algerian economic working team which is entrusted with the task of studying the various aspects of co-operation and integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria in preparation for the convening of the joint higher committee next month.

During this meeting, the secretary stressed that there was no alternative to serious work to achieve Arab unity to confront the political, social, and economic challenges facing the Arab world as part of the attempts by the imperialists to dominate it. He emphasised the need for the goal of unity to be sacred goal which requires extensive efforts.

He said that the deep relationship and joint goals which bind the al Fateh revolution and the Algerian revolution will help them to [word indistinct] a prominent role in

this sphere. He ended by saying that co-operation, integration and unity could not solve the problems of reaction and dependence which the imperialists are trying to impose.

The secretary said that the Great Jamahiriyah, acted in line with its responsibilities towards African nations [words indistinct] assistance and support for the African liberation movements with the aim of enhancing the movements of total struggle which had been led by Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] movement in Mozambique, Zano and Zabo movements in Zimbabwe, SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] movement in Namibia, the A.N.C and the Pan African Congress in South Africa.

He went on to say that the liberation movements, following the elimination of colonialism and racism have become states and the enemies of yesterday which are forgetting their unholy alliance with colonialism and racism, try to woo these states and offer assistance to them while trying to forget that the blockade imposed on the great socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah was caused by its support and assistance for the African liberation movements. He confirmed that the emancipation of South Africa from racism paves the way of the future victory and triumph of the Arab people in occupied Palestine who are struggling against the Zionist racist. He said that our jubilation will not complete unless after the achievement of the final victory for the Arab Palestinian people and after all Arab occupied territories are regained.

He said in accordance with the African brethren and good neighbourlyhood spirit agreement had been reached between the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad to implement the decision of the International Court of Justice.

The secretary said: All [word indistinct] may remember, more than anyone else the nature of conflict between my country and the three Western states and the practical steps taken by Libya to find a peaceful settlement for this dispute and its acceptance to deal with the Security Council Resolution No. 731 as nothing remains for the complete implementation generally except the two suspects standing trial before the court which is based on the legal principle that forbids the surrendering of nationals for other states to try them outside its territory, with the preparedness to let the two suspects stand [words indistinct] and just court to be agreed upon by the parties with the aim of establishing the truth and try them at the quarters of the International Court of Justice but the other concerned patriots did not respond favourably with these practical initiatives offered by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah which aim at finding a fair and just settlement to satisfy the concerned parties particularly in the wake of the solid support of the international and regional organization for the position of the Great Jamahiriyah and the calls for the non-escalation of the dispute and the need to arrive at a peaceful settlement to satisfy all parties.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation paid tribute to the positive role played by the O.A.U. towards this issue which is represented by the decision taken in the 58th. session unanimously by the ministerial council in Cairo and ratified by the 29th. summit of African presidents which called for urging the U.N. Security Council to review Resolution No. 748 and lift the sanctions imposed on Libya in appreciation of the positive initiatives offered by the Great Jamahiriyah to settle the crisis. The reduced African summit held in Cairo in al Kanoun (December) 1993 made an appeal for a peaceful settlement for the conflict and called for a fair trial of the two suspects in a neutral state.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation appeal to the sisterly states, friendly countries, the conscience of the world, the intellectuals and jurists in the world to tackle and confront this flagrant violation for the international law and the United Nations Charter so that the Security Council may not be transformed [word indistinct] council against smaller countries.

He concluded his speech by saying that present conditions and international developments oblige us to be more vigilant to defend our causes and issues and to act towards settling all our disputes within the framework of the Organization of African Unity and to seek the settlement of the debts crisis which is posing heavily on most of our countries. The confrontation of these challenges and others will not be achieved unless through joint will, solid collective resolve and commitment to total African unity.

Revolutionary Committees Movement Seminar Opens

LD3005203094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] The 16th regional seminar of the revolutionary committees movement began this afternoon under the theme: For revolutionary tasks of defiance and confrontation. The seminar is being held from 30 May to 1 June. The agenda consists of three topics: the local topic, the pan-Arab topic, and the international topic.

The local topic is focussed on work for further improving production capacity, practicing self-reliance, and fortifying the coast. The pan-Arab topic consists of boosting the morale of the Arab masses, exposing the aims of colonialism, sticking to the pan-Arab spirit, working for destroying the artificial borders, and forging alliance with the active forces in the Arab homeland. As for the international topic, it consists in working for broadening the international front, forging alliance with the small peoples which struggle for their freedom, and standing with the peoples that love peace based on justice and respect of freedom, sovereignty, and the options of peoples.

The meeting of the 16th seminar of the revolutionary committees movement comes at a time when the Arab Libyan people have declared their historic resolution of defiance and preparedness for confrontation, as shown by the great defiance manifestations in which the masses took to the streets to receive the brother of the revolution everywhere in the Arab Libyan territory.

Morocco

Filali Begins Consultations With Party Leaders

LD0106121394 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0945 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, 1 Jun (MAP)—Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali has begun consultations with leaders of the various political parties represented in parliament in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Mr. Filali met with Maati Bouabid, leader of the Constitutional Union Party, followed by Mohand Laensar, secretary general of the Popular Movement.

On 1 June, the prime minister will meet Mohamed Boucetta, secretary general of the Istiqlal Party; Ahmed Ousman, leader of the National Rally of Independents; and Mohamed Yazghi, deputy secretary general of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Receives Message From Yemen's Salih

EA0106205194 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The Yemeni civil service and administrative reform minister, Yahya Husayn al-Arashi, arrived in Khartoum this evening bearing a written message from the Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-bashir. The Yemeni minister, al-Arashi, was received at Khartoum Airport by Brigadier PSC [past staff college] 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the interior minister and secretary general at the Presidency along with the Yemeni charge d'affaires to Khartoum.

The Yemeni minister told reporters at the airport that the relations between Sudan and the Republic of Yemen are very special.

Al-Turabi Said Involved in Triggering Yemeni War

NC0106145494 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 May 94 p 9

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Text] Informed Sudanese sources have affirmed that Dr. Hasan al-Turabi [leader of the National Islamic Front] is personally involved in triggering the civil war in Yemen. The same sources say that some time ago al-Turabi met with 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani, a representative of the Islamic Reform Group; and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Yasin, a representative of the Muslim Brotherhood in Yemen. He persuaded them to reject the Pledge and Agreement Document signed by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Jordan.

The sources note that al-Turabi claimed to some Yemeni forces that the continuing political crisis in Yemen will eventually lead those he called "the Islamic forces" to control power both in northern and southern Yemen.

'Terrorist Elements' Reportedly Granted Passports

NC0106142994 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 May 94 p 9

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Text] Informed sources in the Sudanese capital have affirmed that during the first week of March the Sudanese Interior Ministry granted Sudanese nationality and Sudanese passports to more than 120 Arab refugees from Egypt, Algeria, Tunis, Jordan, Libya and Palestine, in implementation of the recommendations of the Arab Islamic Popular Conference, which is chaired by National Islamic Front leader Dr. Hasan al-Turabi.

The Islamic Movements's department at the Revolution's Security Agency will keep files on these terrorist elements and will follow up on the settlement, accommodation, and guarding of these elements, who are in camps throughout Sudan.

Government Seeks Mediation With Egypt Over Hala'ib

EA0106165394 Nairobi KNA in English 0930 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 1 Jun (KNA/PANA)—Sudan says it is considering taking its dispute with Egypt over Hala'ib border area to international arbitration, because a bilateral solution seems to have failed.

In a press briefing Tuesday [31 May], under secretary of the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs 'Umar Baridu said in Khartoum that Sudan would either go to the International Court of Justice or an international arbitration committee.

"We think it is possible to reach a peaceful solution to this dispute in a cordial and civilized manner through such a mechanism", he said. He cited the example of Libya which returned the Aouzou strip to Chad after the international court ruled in Chad's favor. [passage omitted]

Baridu also described as a "clear violation of Sudanese supremacy" Egypt's presence in the area of Arqueen [as received]. Arqueen is an area claimed by Sudan in the Lake Nasir area formed after the construction of the Aswan High Dam in upper Egypt in the 1960's. Sudan,

suspicious that Egypt wants to annex the area thought to be rich in Nile water fish, claims that thousands of Egyptian soldiers have been stationed in the area to prevent the intrusion of Sudanese fishermen.

Ummah Party Leaders, Activists Arrested

NC0106184094 Cairo MENA in English 1715 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 1 (MENA)—Sudanese security authorities have launched a large-scale arrest campaign against leaderships and activists of the opposition Ummah Party.

The arrests, carried out on May 19, included a number of former ministers and key officials as well as university professors who are affiliated with the Ummah Party, according to a statement faxed to MENA today.

Families of the detainees were denied access to information on their whereabouts, the statement added.

Al-Bashir Returns From Austria

EA0106162394 Khartoum SUNA in French 0940 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpt] President 'Umar al-Bashir returned to Khartoum from Vienna yesterday afternoon [31 May] at the end of a two-day visit to Austria at the invitation of President Thomas Kestil. In his arrival speech, General al-Bashir said he held several meetings in Vienna with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. At some of these meetings, which were behind closed doors, the two leaders discussed the development of bilateral relations. According to President al-Bashir, these meetings were aimed at improving relations between the two countries, given Uganda's important role in the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development initiative on restoring peace to southern Sudan. He said the two sides agreed to strengthen ties to serve the interests of both peoples. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Interior Minister Calls For Respect for Law

LD2705195394 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 May 94

[Excerpt] The Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel has announced, when opening the periodic conference of governors this morning, that the conference was taking place in an atmosphere of tranquillity, security, political, and social concord, progress, and economic development, in addition to the country's leading role in foreign affairs.

The minister of state pointed out the invaluable directives in the speech made by President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali on the occasion of the swearing-in ceremony of the new Chamber of Deputies, in which pluralism was palpable for the first time in the history of the country.

The minister of state has pointed out, however, that there was no more room for anyone to talk in the name of people from outside the parliament anymore and asserted the need for everyone to pay due respect to the rule of law, be it individuals, institutions, or organizations.

He pointed out, furthermore, the great importance the president was attaching that everyone should address himself to seriously work for the building of a pluralist, unified, and prosperous society. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Prime Minister Confers With Britain's Hogg

JN0106140994 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Manama, 1 Jun (WAKH)—Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah this morning received Douglas Hogg, visiting British minister of state for foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on latest developments in the region and discussed regional issues of common interest. They also touched on relations between the two friendly countries and peoples and ways of promoting cooperation in various areas. [passage omitted]

Amir Receives Minister

LD0106144894 Riyadh SPA in English 1251 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Manama, June 1, SPA—The emir of Bahrain Sheykh 'Isa Bin Salman al-Khalifah received here today visiting British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg to review current regional and Arab developments.

They also discussed the situation in Yemen and means of boosting bilateral relations.

Kuwait

British Foreign Minister Hogg Pays Visit

Comments on South Yemen Recognition

LD0106230194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1855 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Jun—Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, said that the resolution due to be debated by the UN Security Council later today concerning Yemen would be useful.

In a statement he made to KUNA on his arrival in Kuwait today from Manama, in the framework of his tour in the region, he further said: We are not of the view that the declaration of independence by South Yemen will gain recognition. He also said: Clearly, Yemenis agree on the need to change the constitutional situation in Yemen to bring about a completely different situation, but at this moment we recognize one Yemeni state.

After a meeting with the Kuwaiti Defense Minister Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah, the British minister further said: We do not believe that time has come to alleviate sanctions against Iraq, and this requires Iraq to meet two conditions at least. He said that these two conditions were Iraq's recognition of the independence and sovereignty of the state of Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders as demarcated by the UN. He also said that amongst the necessary and important conditions to alleviate the sanctions is Iraq's heeding of the UN Security Council resolutions concerning its arms of mass destruction, and its commitment to the measures concerning this. Hogg said he believed these requirements would not be met this year.

Hogg also said that his talks with the Kuwaiti defense minister confirmed the British-Kuwaiti common defense and strategic interests, noting that Britain was very interested in Kuwait's independence and security.

He said that the purpose of his visit to Kuwait was to discuss numerous issues of common interest with Kuwaiti officials. He described British-Kuwaiti relations as being excellent.

Hogg is expected to hold a meeting tomorrow with Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah Al-Salim, the deputy speaker of the National Assembly and a number of local and foreign businessmen.

The British minister will tomorrow afternoon visit Khawr Abdullah base where UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission] forces are stationed, and will also inspect the border demarcation line approved by the UN Security Council's resolution 833. The British minister will hold a news conference tomorrow afternoon.

The Kuwaiti defense minister said that the meeting he held with Mr. Hogg dealt with a number of issues, both bilateral and regional.

Shaykh al-Hamud added that his meeting with the British official was the fourth of its kind in three years and hailed Britain's support for the Kuwaiti rights through the UN Security Council.

Received by Prime Minister

LD0206105294 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] This morning at the People's Palace, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, received His Excellency Douglas Hogg, the British minister of state for foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him, on the occasion of his visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, the minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shaykh 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Ahmad, head of the European section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and British Ambassador to Kuwait William Fullerton.

National Assembly Speaker on Democracy, Extremists

LD2905105094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0806 GMT 29 May 94

[Excerpts] Ottawa, 29 May (KUNA)—Ahmad 'Abd-al-Aziz Sa'dun, speaker of the National Assembly, has said that Kuwait does not fear the emergence of extremist religious movements like those that exist in a number of Arab states.

In an interview on Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CBC, radio he said that "as long as there is democracy, participation, freedom of expression, and a free press," in addition to "our open society which allows all sides to be heard and to put forward their points of view, this prevents any form of extremism."

Sa'dun was replying to a question on whether Kuwait fears Islamic extremism. He said that Kuwaiti society "adheres to religion and abides by Islam, but in this case you are talking about political organizations which are actually present throughout the Arab homeland." He stated that the present National Assembly "represents all strata of Kuwaiti society and all political, social, and other groups."

He said that there is a trend toward widening the electoral base in Kuwait through a number of proposals "which have been on the table for some time and on which views differ," such as granting women the right to vote, lowering the voting age to 18, giving naturalized Kuwaitis the right to vote, and granting the right to vote to certain nationals who are resident abroad because of the nature of their work, such as ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, students, and military personnel.

He said: "We are a democratic country" and accept what is adopted by the majority. "Whatever the trend on any of these issues, I personally am not concerned when the vote in the National Assembly goes against my own preference." [passage omitted]

The National Assembly speaker said that the greatest achievement in Kuwait since its liberation from Iraqi occupation has been parliamentary elections and the restoration of democracy. He said that this emphasized "the nature of the situation in Kuwait, the nature of the ruling system in Kuwait, and the nature of the Kuwaiti people, who must have a role in managing the affairs of their country and in self-determination." [passage omitted]

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

Comments on Yemeni Crisis

LD2705221794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2045 GMT 27 May 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 27 May—China has called on rival parties in Yemen to halt the fighting and resort to dialogue in order to solve the crisis there through peaceful means.

In a statement to KUNA on his arrival in Kuwait today at the beginning of a tour of several Arab countries, Tian Zengpei, the Chinese vice foreign minister, said that China was following with interest the development of the situation in Yemen and wished for a halt of the hostilities there.

The Chinese minister, whose country is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, said that the Yemeni crisis should be solved through peaceful means in order to preserve the interests of the Yemeni people.

The Chinese call comes at a time the UN Security Council members are trying to discuss the Yemeni crisis that entered its fourth week after fighting broke out between northern and southern troops on 4 May. [passage omitted]

The Chinese official said that he was carrying a written message from Chinese President Jiang Zemin to the Amir of Kuwait.

He added that, during his three-day visit to Kuwait, he will meet a number of Kuwaiti officials at the Foreign Affairs Ministry to discuss bilateral relations and issues of common interests. [passage omitted]

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD2805200094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1616 GMT 28 May 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 28 May (KUNA)—Visiting Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei met here today with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. An official source at the Foreign Ministry told the Kuwaiti News Agency that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has praised China's principled stance regarding the treacherous Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in August 1990. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has also praised China's understanding of the need for the Iraqi regime's commitment to the implementation of legitimate international resolutions.

The source said that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has noted Kuwait's stance regarding the need to compel Iraq to implement all the international resolutions pertaining to the war of liberation against Kuwait, stressing that the UN sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime were the only guarantee to achieve this goal. [passage omitted]

The Chinese deputy foreign minister is visiting Kuwait at the start of a tour of a number of Arab countries. He is due to meet the amir tomorrow and deliver a message from Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Holds Talks With Amir

LD2905145394 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 May 94

[Excerpt] At 1000 this morning his highness the amir received Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei, who gave him a message from President Jiang

Zemin of the PRC. The message contained an official invitation to his highness to visit the PRC. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Aden Reports 'Failed' Missile Attack on Refinery

EA0106152394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1310 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Statement issued by the "Armed Forces Command of the Democratic Republic of Yemen"; place and date not given]

[Text] In the context of the escalation in the military situation and in an open challenge leveled against all the Arab and international efforts aimed to bring about an end to the fighting in Yemen, the al-Ahmar gang in Sanaa has launched missile and air strikes against the residential quarters and vital civil installations in Aden. Yesterday at dawn, Aden came under a missile attack aimed at civilian residential quarters. The missiles were engaged by our air defenses, which shot down one of the missiles in flight while another missile fell into the sea. This morning two enemy aircraft tried to bomb the little Aden refinery, one of the vital and important economic installations belonging to our Yemeni people. Our air defenses succeeded in foiling this treacherous attempt, which failed to achieve its objectives. However, one of the houses of the innocent citizens in little Aden was hit, killing a number of women and children. The Command of the Armed Forces in the Democratic Republic of Yemen, while condemning these barbarous acts which violate all the rules of war, reserves the right to respond strongly and decisively to this kind of aggression. Let those who are warned take heed.

Sanaa 'Source' Denies Attack

JN0206052294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible military source has denied reports broadcast by the news media of the gang of mutiny and secession to the effect that two aircraft belonging to our Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy, fired missiles at the Aden oil refinery. The source said these reports are false and baseless, and that they constitute an attempt to cover the crushing blows inflicted by the heroic Armed Forces men on the dens of the secessionist gang inside the Aden Governorate.

The source said that the air strikes targeted the camp the secessionists are using as a stronghold west of Aden, and that the civilian and economic installations and residential areas have not been and will never be targets for the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy.

Aden Reports 'Heavy Losses' Inflicted on North

EA0106194194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Statement by a "responsible source at the Command of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen"; date not given]

[Text] The bloody al-Ahmar gang in Sanaa today repeated to fail in its aggressive attempts on the various fronts. Our air, ground and naval forces have been able to repel and foil these attempts and to rout the hostile forces, inflicting on them heavy losses of life and material. On the Karish-Tawr al-Baha axis, our forces were able to shoot down two enemy aircraft and destroy four Katyusha rocket launching vehicles. On this front the enemy lost dozens of officers and men, including a lieutenant colonel and a major. In a hysterical attempt, two enemy aircraft tried to bomb the Aden refinery, but our air defenses foiled them. One of the aircraft released its destructive load over one of the government schools in al-Burayqah, wounding six women and children living near the school. In the Abyan-Shabwah axis our forces continued delivering crushing blows on the invading enemy forces, compelling them to withdraw and return to where they had come from. God is great.

Successes Reported at Mayfa

EA0206104294 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The Armed Forces Command has issued a military communique saying that the forces of the aggressive gang of the al-Ahmar clan suffered great losses during fierce battles on 29 and 30 May involving aircraft, tanks, Katyushas, and small arms on the outskirts of the town of Mayfa. Our heroic Armed Forces inflicted [words indistinct] on the invading forces, loss of tanks and military vehicles, and killed and wounded a number of them. The communique said the fighting is still in progress and will continue until the end when the invaders return to where they came from.

Missile Injures 21 in Aden After Cease-Fire Call

NC0206100294 Paris AFP in English 0829 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, June 2 (AFP)—A missile fired by northern Yemeni forces slammed into this southern stronghold on Thursday [2 June] wounding 21 people and artillery duels raged only hours after the UN Security Council called for a ceasefire.

One of two surface-to-surface missiles was intercepted by south Yemeni anti-aircraft fire but the other exploded near a mosque in the northern suburb of al-Shaykh 'Uthman, officials said.

Sixteen worshipers were hurt inside the mosque when the missile struck during dawn prayers. The raid left

pools of blood on the carpets and the courtyard, witnesses said. Five people were injured in nearby dwellings.

Hundreds later gathered in the area to denounce "the killer regime" of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a northerner.

The missile attack came just hours after the United Nations Security Council had adopted a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the civil war in Yemen, which erupted May 5.

Heavy artillery duels on the war front just north of Aden were so intense Thursday morning that buildings in the city shook heavily.

Southern warplanes were constantly taking off and landing at Aden Airport as they flew sorties against the northern forces of Salih, who has strongly opposed any UN "interference" in the conflict.

The presidential council of the breakaway southern state led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid announced it would "unconditionally respect" the Security Council resolution and assist a fact finding mission being dispatched by the world body.

There was no immediate reaction from Sanaa, where the government held a meeting to discuss the resolution. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Ghani Briefs Butrus-Ghali on Situation

JN0106173794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Presidential Council Member 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali in New York last night. He briefed him on the situation in our country from all its aspects.

Attending the meeting were 'Abdallah Ghanim, minister of justice, and 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, our country's permanent ambassador to the United Nations.

Minister Reiterates Rejection of UN 'Interference'

JN0106181694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi has reaffirmed that the war, which was triggered by the gang of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party leadership, is between the Yemeni people and a mutinous group violating the constitutional legitimacy.

Referring to the concern of the brothers and friends, as well as their calls for halting the fighting, he wondered: On what basis do they call for a cease-fire, and what are the guarantees that the rebels would resort to the constitutional legitimacy and its institutions, which were established as a result of the general elections that were held on 27 April 1993 and that were (?defined) by everybody.

The deputy prime minister reiterated our country's rejection of any interference in its domestic affairs by the Security Council or any other side, stressing that what is taking place in the Republic of Yemen is an internal affair. He also voiced his surprise at some brothers' insistence on the need for the Security Council to issue a resolution on a cease-fire, although they know that the issue belongs to the Yemeni people alone. Such a resolution, he added, will lead to more fighting, which is sought by those who want such a resolution.

This came during a news conference he gave at the Prime Ministry today. Several representatives of local, Arab, and international television networks, radio stations, and press in Sanaa attended. It was also attended by 'Abd-al-Rahman Zaydan, director of the prime minister's office, and [name indistinct], under secretary of the Ministry of Information.

Basindwah: UNSC Must Urge Respect for Unity

PM0206093494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Husayn] You said during your recent visit to Cairo that what is happening in Yemen is merely a state of rebellion and that it would be settled in no more than 48 hours. The Yemeni war has now entered its second month. Do you still believe it is a state of rebellion and civilian-military disobedience?

[Basindwah] Yes, what is happening in Yemen is no more than a state of rebellion and disobedience. And even though the battle has continued for longer than expected, the reason is because we did not know that the group of apostasy and secession had all the weapons we have just discovered. We did not know that it had important strategic bases, which has caused the fighting to continue for longer than expected. All this prompts us now to say that the group of rebellion had made preparations, not for the sake of threatening its opponents in Yemen, but maybe for the sake of imposing its hegemony over the region as a whole.

[Abu-Husayn] What do you mean by that accusation?

[Basindwah] The Socialist Party, which is led by al-Bid, espoused the popular fronts for the liberation of Gulf states, as it used to say. It used to consider their system of government as reactionary and linked to Western imperialism, so it should be reexamined.

The important thing is that, despite all this military preparedness by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the legitimate leadership in Yemen has managed to take control of three very

large governorates—namely Abyan, Lahij, and Shabwah—from three directions. And Aden is now—to a large extent—besieged from several directions, especially the al-'Anad base, which is actually the third military base in the world in terms of the position and preparations inside it. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] If the infighting in Yemen is merely an internal rebellion, why did the Security Council discuss it?

[Basindwah] Some people say that what is happening in Yemen affects the region's security and safety, and we stress that we welcome any endeavors as long as they take account of Yemen's unity and constitutional legitimacy and refer to the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen. This is in addition to the return of the forces belonging to the group of apostasy, secession, and rebellion to their natural position as an integral part of legitimacy under President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

[Abu-Husayn] Is the Security Council abiding by the Yemeni demands you have listed?

[Basindwah] We are opposed to the Security Council's discussing what is happening in Yemen, because what is happening in our country is an internal affair. However, we cannot prevent the Security Council [from intervening] by virtue of the new world situation.

[Abu-Husayn] What if the Security Council adopts a resolution on a cease-fire only, without prior conditions?

[Basindwah] No, no. If that happens, the Security Council must stress respect for Yemen's unity and compliance with legitimacy. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] When will a cease-fire be announced?

[Basindwah] We will respond to a cease-fire the moment the secession decision has been revoked and once unionist elements in the Socialist party leadership have announced their compliance with constitutional legitimacy.

[Abu-Husayn] And what if the southern leadership refuses to revoke the decision to announce the new [Democratic] Republic of Yemen?

[Basindwah] The fighting will continue. I would like to point out here that we do not want to impose unity by force, because the unity was established before the war, that is four years ago. It was achieved voluntarily, and a people's referendum on it and on the Constitution was held. So it is the south which is seeking to impose secession by force. We are defending the homeland's unity against this armed rebellion. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] [Question not given]

[Basindwah] A federation or a confederation might suit states whose peoples are divided among themselves ideologically, religiously, and linguistically. But in Yemen, we are one Muslim people. There are no religious minorities or sects. Yemen has been one country throughout history. For example, what happened between Egypt and Syria in 1958 does not apply to our case in Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] If 'Ali Salim al-Bid—and this is an assumption—announces a decision to revoke the republic decision, would you hold a dialogue with him?

[Basindwah] No, no, no. We would deal with the elements not implicated in the secessionist scheme. There are many people on whom we are pinning great hopes.

[Abu-Husayn] Like whom?

[Basindwah] I do not want to specify names so that the Socialist Party will not suspect anything.

[Abu-Husayn] Is that a maneuver on the northern leadership's part to split the Socialist Party, as al-Bid and al-'Attas say?

[Basindwah] The Socialist Party has split within itself more than once in the past, and we were not responsible for that. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] Was the discovery of oil a direct cause of the separation, as is being said?

[Basindwah] Maybe that is the thinking of al-Bid and al-'Attas, the group of rebellion seeking to monopolize the Hadhramaut area to establish a state for them in it. But the inhabitants of the area will not allow them to do that. [passage omitted]

Cabinet To Hold Meeting on UNSC Resolution

JN0206110094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] In Sanaa, an authoritative source has said that the Yemeni Government will hold an extraordinary meeting today in the wake of the resolution issued by the United Nations Security Council, which calls for a cease-fire in Yemen. The same source added that a scheduled news conference today has been postponed due to the convening of the emergency meeting of the Council of Ministers in which Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani will announce Sanaa's stand on the Security Council resolution.

Al-Mutawakkil Seeks Dialogue With YSP Unionists

PM0106142494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 May 94 p 4

[Interview with Interior Minister Brigadier Yahya al-Mutawakkil by unidentified correspondent in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] What is the latest in the Yemeni crisis?

[Al-Mutawakkil] It seems clear that the Yemeni crisis is fabricated, and we have been dragged into it. It seems that there is a plan to drag us—through the crisis—into a long war of attrition and civil war. The aims are now clear—to fragment and exhaust Yemen through this war, which will destroy everything.

However, I am optimistic that the Yemenis will realize their interests and the danger surrounding them. This is why the voice of reason has begun to prevail among the brother unionists in the Socialist Party and to respond to the appeal made by brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih urging the repeal of the secession and a return to dialogue. I expect the voice of reason to trimph in the end. And the unionist leaders in the Socialist Party will revoke the secession decision, which amounts to treason. Let us begin a constructive dialogue to spare us falling into the dangers into which we are being dragged.

[AL-HAYAH] But you set four conditions for a dialogue with the other side.

[Al-Mutawakkil] There are fundamental conditions which cannot be abandoned. And there are conditions which can be discussed. The fundamental conditions concern unity and legitimacy—two conditions which cannot be abandoned. The brothers in the Socialist Party leadership must realize that we cannot meet together before these two conditions are agreed. I am confident that they are as interested in unity as we are, and we must reach an agreement in this connection.

[AL-HAYAH] In your capacity as member of the three-men committee entrusted with opening a dialogue with the other side, what are the results of the contacts being made to open dialogue channels?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Although we have not yet reached a clear position regarding contacts between us and unionist leaders in the Socialist Party, I am confident that we will reach a positive result. The important thing is to initiate a dialogue and establish contacts between us now. I am confident that we will reach a positive result. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Do you prefer to reject the Security Council's intervention and its resolution on the crisis, or do you prefer that amendments be introduced to the proposals submitted to the Security Council?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We would prefer the United Nations and the Security Council not to deal with the Yemeni issue, because it is an internal issue. Any attempt to deal with it in any way means interference in our internal affairs in one way or another. As far as we are concerned, we do not want the United Nations to deal with our issue. However, if the Security Council must deal with this issue, it has to be within the premise that unity is fixed and incontestable. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Some Arab states talk about the presence of Afghan Arab mujahidin [Arabs who fought alongside Afghan Mojahedin against Soviets], saying their task is to bolster extremist fundamentalist movements, especially in Algeria and Egypt. What is your opinion?

[Al-Mutawakkil] I categorically deny the presence of any Arab mujahidin in Yemen. With regard to Islamists, we are all Muslims. As for the presence of Yemeni Islamic political leaders in Yemen, this is legal for them and others. But there are no Arab and Islamic political parties on the scene. Nor is there any consolidation of an Islamic or political tendency as rumored by Yemen's enemies.

Sanaa Reportedly Seizes Tanks Meant for South

JN0106212694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 1 Jun (INA)—An official Yemeni source has told INA correspondent in Sanaa that the legitimate Yemeni forces have seized 80 tanks which were sent from Saudi Arabia to the secessionists in Aden.

The source said that Saudi Arabia moved these tanks via the al-'Abr border area into Hadhramaut Governotate three days ago.

The source added that Yemeni tribes in Shabwah Governorate and Hadhramaut Governorate seized the tanks when those who were transporting them hinted that they were representatives of 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The source explained that as a result, Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih contacted Saudi King Fahd by telephone and informed him that he had received the consignment of tanks sent to the secessionists.

Council Approves Exploitation of Hulaywah Oil Field

JN0106141694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The Higher Council for Oil, Economic, and Investment Affairs held a meeting today under Acting Prime Minister Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar. It discussed a number of topics on its agenda and approved a decision to begin the best and quickest exploitation of the Hulaywah oil field in the Jannah sector.

The Council instructed the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources to take the necessary measures to guarantee the best revenues to serve the national economy.

The Council also discussed a number of reports submitted by the Finance Ministry, the Central Bank, and the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, and took the necessary measures on them.

Aden Leadership Appeals to UN for Resolution

EA0106212594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1406 GMT 1 Jun 94

["Text" of letter to the chairmen of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly from the DRY Presidential Council, the chairmanship of the interim Assembly for National Salvation, and the DRY Council of Ministers; place and date not given]

[Text] We wish to convey to you and through you to all the member states of the UN Security Council and of the UN General Assembly our best greetings and to place before you this appeal on behalf of the Presidential Council, the interim Assembly for National Salvation, and the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] in order to present to you the circumstances of the oppressive military aggression to which our people have been subjected by the ruling regime in Sanaa for over a month. This is to enable you to direct your attention and concern to bear on the matter and encourage you to adopt an immediate resolution providing for an end to the destructive war in both Sanaa and Aden, without any preconditions, and to invite the relevant Yemeni sides to engage in unconditional negotiations with a view to arriving at peaceful solutions to any differences between the two sides, under the auspices of the Arab league and the UN organization. In this context, we wish to place before you the following facts:

1. The ruling regime in Sanaa has in practical terms violated all legitimacy and constitutionality simply by having declared war against the Yemeni people, particularly against the southern and eastern governorates which currently constitute the DRY.

2. The declaration of war and its prosecution, and the rejection of national, Arab, and international appeals to stop the fighting, are scandalous violations of the fundamental bases of security and stability and expose the higher interests of the people and the homeland to great danger and damage.

3. Persisting with the war damages not only democratic Yemen, but also constitutes a danger to the whole region by threatening international peace and security.

4. The crimes which the Sanaa regime has committed through mounting operations of arrests, assassinations, torture and kidnapping of the opposition, and the political and patriotic [word indistinct] which rejected the method of war, are clear violations of human rights and the International Charter on Human Rights and of the two international charters [as heard] and of all the other international agreements which Yemen has signed.

5. The barefaced savage military aggression on the part of the Sanaa regime has basically targeted civilian areas and the civilian inhabitants in the border areas between the two countries. Hospitals, schools, resideces, electric power stations, and water reservoirs have been shelled in many of the DRY's cities and villages.

6. The declaration of war against the DRY means that the aim of the Sanaa regime is not unity, as it falsely states, but the entrenchment of more power and domination to gratify its ambitions and selfish interests which are basically irreconcilable with the higher interests of the people and homeland. The regime unleashed its aggression to eradicate these areas; to put an end to unity and to (?justify) the excuses it has served up. This made the establishment of the DRY unavoidable in order to salvage what could be salvaged for the homeland and the people.

7. Accordingly, the declaration of the establishment of the DRY was the logical result of this aggressive and destructive war. What the Sanaa regime is doing is perpetuating its aggression on another state. It is not an internal matter, as the rulers of Sanaa claim. Thus, the reestablishment of the DRY, with its complete leadership which it has had since 30 November 1967, is a natural, legal act.

8. The Sanaa regime has recently escalated the fierceness of the fighting. It did so, after the matter was handed over to the UN Security Council by the Arab states, in a desperate attempt to establish a fait accompli and complete its occupation of a relatively large part of the territory of the DRY. In the face of this disastrous scenario, we appeal to you to take the initiative by immediately and instantly resolving the following:

1. An immediate and unconditional end to the war.

2. The withdrawal of the invasion forces of the Sanaa regime from the territory of the DRY to their own territory.

3. Dispatch of international forces to separate the forces of the two sides on the border between the two countries, or at least the dispatch of international observer forces to supervise observance of the cease-fire and to stop the fighting.

4. Issuance of an invitation to negotiate under the auspices of the United Nations and the Arab League.

5. Rejection of the principle to impose unity by force, which is in violation of international norms and of the new world order.

6. Application of Section 7 of the UN Charter to authorize the use of force if the Sanaa regime refrains from adhering to these resolutions.

7. Genocide and the destruction of the social, military and economic foundations of any country is an act that ineluctably attracts the intervention of the international community to protect the basic rights of any people. These rights include life, security, stability and to choose its political, social and international system—to secure

for the people all the guarantees declared in the international human rights declaration. Article 30 of the International Declaration on Human Rights states that it does not contain any provision which can be interpreted as permitting a state to take any action, activity or [word indistinct] aimed at destroying the rights and freedoms laid down in the declaration.

We are confident that you will respond to this appeal and issue your just resolution as quickly as possible with a view to preserving the fundamental considerations of security and international peace and so as to prevent the sparks of the destructive war from being transferred to the neighboring states. As for the fabrication that what is happening is an internal matter as claimed by the Sanaa regime, in spite of the fact that it is aggression against another side in the union, this has now become aggression against a state whose establishment has been declared. In this respect, Article 2, Chapter 7 of the UN Charter lays down at its end and that interference in [internal] affairs is the province of the internal authorities of a state but this must not detract from the application of curbs as laid down in Chapter 7 of the charter. This means that there can be intervention under exceptional circumstances in these affairs if international security and peace is threatened.

This is what is happening now in the broadening of the scope of the military battles, which are likely to expose international peace and security to danger. Moreover, waging war and declaring battle by internal authorities in any state cannot be regarded as an internal matter by any yardstick, because it is not an internal matter. Military aggression is now being directed against all the governorates which formerly comprised a UN member state and the second partner in the unified state, which [the unified state] alone has the right to wage war, as opposed to the remaining governorates which used to form the Yemeni Arab Republic having that right. So this is far from being an internal matter. On the contrary, it is naked aggression by one side against another. Moreover, the aims of this aggression and its results violate the aims of the UN organization and its principles, as set out in the first chapter of the charter.

Furthermore, any state which is not a member of the United Nations has the right to approach the Security Council in respect of any conflict to which it is party provided it accepts in advance a peaceful solution as provided for in the UN Charter. This is provided for under Chapter 35, Article 2 of the charter. Accordingly, the rejection by the other side of the peaceful solution also gives the Security Council the right to apply Chapter 7 of the charter without any hesitation.

In conclusion, we hope that we have clarified our position, which aims at preserving security and peace, the safety of the lives of the civilians, and ending the destruction, and we await from you a positive stance in this respect. We also hope that this appeal of ours will be classified as a document among the documents of the United Nations and that it will be distributed to the member states. Accept our compliments:

[Signed] DRY Presidential Council, chairmanship of the interim Assembly for National Salvation, and the chairmanship of the DRY Council of Ministers

Dispute Reported Within YSP Leadership

PM0106114094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Differences Inside Socialist Party Leadership Over Decision To Announce Secession"]

[Text] Aden, AL-HAYAH—An authoritative Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] source revealed yesterday that the "announcement of the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen and the separation from the united state announced on 22 May 1990 has provoked a dispute inside the YSP leadership. A wing led by the party's northerners like Jarallah 'Umar and Yahya al-Shami has voiced reservations about this step. This is in addition to Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the YSP secretariat."

The source said: "Northerners view the announcement of the establishment of a separate republic in the south as a serious matter which should be referred to the party's leading and grassroots committees—which has not been done, as 'Ali Salim al-Bid took the secession decision single-handedly during his presence in Hadhramaut, his birthplace." The source pointed out that the "YSP, which has always stressed that it is a unionist party, cannot become secessionist now."

Dr. Yasin Nu'man refused to speak to any media services, insisting on secluding himself at his home in Aden in protest at al-Bid's step. A number of YSP leaders have asked al-Bid to hold an extraordinary Central Committee meeting to address this serious situation.

AL-HAYAH has learned from leading YSP sources opposed to al-Bid's opinion that "the YSP leader is refusing to hold such a meeting."

Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the YSP Central Committee and one of the members opposed to al-Bid's announcement, has said that "al-Bid violated the party's unity and acted single-handedly with some oppositionist forces which are now divided among themselves."

Al-'Attas Denies Reports of Split in YSP

PM0106133094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Rafiq al-Ma'luf, Sulayman Nimr, Iqbal 'Abdallah, and Hamad al-Jasir: "Al-'Attas Emphasizes to AL-HAYAH: Socialist Party Unity Stronger Than Ever Before"]

[Excerpt] Washington, Sanaa, Aden, Kuwait—[passage omitted] In a statement to AL-HAYAH after his arrival

in Bahrain from Kuwait yesterday, [South Yemen Prime Minister] Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas ridiculed reports of a split in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. He told AL-HAYAH: "The allegation that there are disagreements inside the YSP leadership is a cracked record, because since the unity was established Sanaa has worked to split the YSP. It exerted every effort, allocated huge sums of money, and conspired against many people, but it failed to achieved its aim of splitting the YSP, which is now more united than ever before. The Political Bureau replied to Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani's statement on a split two days ago. All this confirms that Sanaa is desperately trying to play this card, but to no avail. Sanaa's behavior reflects the secessionist spirit it has exercised with all national leaderships in all parties on the national scene. It is pursuing its known policy based on the divide-and-rule principle. It has worked to cause splits among tribes and numerous national parties, and the Yemeni scene bears witness to that." [passage omitted]

South Yemen 'Vice President' al-Jifri Interviewed

PM0106113694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 May 94 pp1, 4

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, "leader of the Sons of Yemen League and vice president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen," by Lutfi Shatarah in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shatarah] Some observers believe that the declaration of the secession of the south was perhaps meant to pressure Sanaa into a cease-fire and into accepting a federation or confederation.

[Al-Jifri] The secession was declared not by us but by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. What we did was announce the result which Salih caused, because we had agreed with him before the war that a declaration of secession would mean a declaration of war by either side and that a declaration of war would mean secession. So he declared war knowing that that would mean secession.

Secondly, they (the northerners) say that they have occupied one area or another which means that they are advocates not of unity but of occupation, and that their view of unity is that they should occupy and control others.

Thirdly, we are not playing games to set up a state as a means of pressure for a cease-fire but we cannot accept unity on the old foundations and we cannot place the lives and future of the public in the hands of people obsessed with domination and hegemony.

We, however, advocate unity based on law and order, equality, democracy, and respect for human rights. When there is a regime in Sanaa which believes in what we believe in, then we will discuss unity with it. Also, if 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih observes a cease-fire and withdraws his forces then we would be willing to build special and cordial relations with our brothers in the north and later develop these relations into anything. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] It has been rumored that there is U.S. pressure on you to revoke the secession decision in return for which Sanaa would be forced to stop the war and agree on a new form of unity. What, in your view, would that form be, after missiles have hit Sanaa as well as Aden?

[Al-Jifri] There is no U.S. pressure on us in that direction. We know that our American friends are indeed against infighting in our country and against the imposition of unity by force, and that they are in favor of unity on new and sound foundations. We never called for anything else before. We believe that a cease-fire and withdrawal of forces to their pre-22 May 1990 positions would pave the way for calm and sensible negotiations that would maintain some kind of link between the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] and the Yemeni Arab Republic [YAR]. That way we would achieve the stability sought by everyone at home and abroad. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] There are conflicting reports about the results of the battles, sometimes exaggerated. What is the true military situation on the various fronts?

[Al-Jifri] In such battles on such a long front there is bound to be advance and retreat and confused and exaggerated reports, but what we want to fully emphasize is that Aden is protected, firstly by God and then by our people in the battlefields led by Defense Minister Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, his aides, the chief of staff, the air eagles, and the naval forces.

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will not be able to conquer Aden. That we categorically affirm. His plan was to occupy Aden within 48 hours or five days at the most. We are now in the fourth week. Even in four months his position would be worse and ours would be better. We are defending a cause and our territory and he is an aggressor without a cause. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Has there been any confirmation of Iraqi or Sudanese involvement in the current war in Yemen?

[Al-Jifri] We have definite indications or information about involvement of quarters from outside the DRY and YAR in this sedition triggered by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. At present at al-Hudaydah air base there are experts, training instructors, and pilots from abroad. As regards those who claim to be fighting in the name of Islamic Jihad, God knows that we know Islam better

than them and are more committed to it than them, otherwise they would not have destroyed entire villages, including women and children, in the holy months and during 'Id al-Adha. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] It has been claimed that al-Bid has moved his headquarters to Hadhramaut and that he is running his affairs from there. What are the justifications for such a move in the circumstances?

[Al-Jifri] President 'Ali Salim al-Bid went to Hadhramaut to to carry out extremely important tasks and to deal with various matters at local, Arab, or international levels. Wherever there are duties for the brother president or any of the officials in the south to perform, they would go to perform these duties.

[Shatarah] Could it be that he moved there because Aden became unsafe?

[Al-Jifri] That is not true at all. [passage omitted]

Ministers Return to Aden From Arab Countries Tour

EA0106204594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Brothers 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi, member of the Presidential Council, and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, returned back home to Aden yesterday following a tour they made to a number of Arab countries which included the Arab Republic of Egypt, Syria Arab Republic, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, the Qatar, whereby they carried letters from brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the chairman of the Presidential Council, to the leaders of these countries, related to the developments of the situation in the Yemeni arena. They were received at Aden Airport by brothers 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, the vice chairman of the Presidential Council, Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud, member of the Presidential Council, Anis Hasan Yahya, the chairman of the National Assembly for Salvation, Dr. Yasin Said Nu'man, polital bureau member and chairman of the board of the secretariat of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and other officials.

Brothers 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas described their tour and their consultations with the leaders of these countries as extremely positive and they found an understanding to the whole situation prevailing in Yemen. In their statement to the press and the mass media following their return home, they praised the good endeavors and efforts which are being made by these countries for stopping the destructive war in Yemen.

They expressed confidence that these endeavors will lead to reason aiming to stop the war and return to the language of sense and dialogue for resolving differences and problems.

Earlier yesterday afternoon, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid the chairman of the Presidential Council in al-Mukalla, received brothers 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi, member of the Presidential Council and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, during their stop-over in Mukalla where the brother president expressed his welcome to the return of the prominent patriotic personality 'Abd- al-Qawi Makkawi to the homeland after long years of repatriation, confirming his confidence that Makkawi who is returning now as a member of the Presidential Council, will play a big role in building the state of democratic Yemen.

Brother the chairman of the Presidential Council also congratulated brother al-'Attas for his safe and sound return after his trip for medical treatment abroad.

After that brothers Makkawi and al-Attas presented a detailed account to the brother president about the results of the tour they made in a number of the fraternal Arab countries and their meeting with the leaders of these countries expressing their satisfaction about the results of these visits and the response and eagerness of the fraternals in the Arab countries with our country's orientations which calls for stopping the fighting and preventing Yemeni bloodshed.

Report Questions Fate of Pro-YSP Abu-Luhum

PM0106141894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 May 94 p1

[Unattributed report: "Questions About Fate of Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Various reports have been circulating in Yemeni political circles and in diplomatic circles about the fate of Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum, leader of the Popular Forces Union and a senior chieftain of the Bakil tribes who is known for his opposition to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his sympathy with the positions and policy of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] throughout the years of Yemeni unity.

Informed sources note that Shaykh Abu-Luhum has disappeared from the arena in recent weeks, since his return to Sanaa at the beginning of the Yemeni war. Despite his state of health and advanced age, he had made great efforts in bridging the views of Yemeni president and his Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid since the beginning of the crisis last August.

The sources say that Abu-Luhum may be under house arrest at present for refusing to add his name to the list of supporters signed by a number of YSP and opposition leaders currently in Sanaa despite their known opposition to President Salih in the past.

It is worth noting that commercial offices partly owned by Shaykh Sinan were burned down six week ago while he was in the United States for medical treatment, because of the positions he had taken and statements he made to Sanaa's dissatisfaction, particularly his support

for a strong Arab role in settling the Yemeni crisis after the Sanaa and Aden officials failed to contain that crisis.

League Estimates 50,000 Killed, $10 Billion in Damages

JN0206113694 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 30 May 94 p 1

[Report by Falih al-Saghir and Sa'ud al-Rayyis from Cairo]

[Excerpt] An Arab League official has said that human losses in 25 days of fierce fighting in Yemen have exceeded more than 50,000 killed from both sides.

In a statement to AL-YAWM, Tal'at Hamid, the League's media adviser, said that the material damage for the same period has exceeded $10 billion. He said the Yemeni infrastructure has also been damaged. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Discusses Signs Embargo To Be Lifted

JN0106204994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jun (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has stated that the recent UN Security Council deliberations have paved the way for either lifting or easing the embargo on Iraq.

At a news conference here today, Tariq 'Aziz said: I cannot describe this meeting as a victory or that it achieved great gains because the gain we and our people expect consists of tangible steps to lift the embargo.

'Aziz emphasized that Iraq's political and diplomatic moves have started to produce results by having the UN Security Council change its stand despite the extensive hostile diplomatic and nondiplomatic campaign in which the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers resorted to funds and bribes and the United States to pressures and attempts to influence people.

The deputy prime minister said that the Americans were forced to to come out in the open on this issue after Christopher met with ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and warned them against warming to Iraq and published an article stating that the embargo on Iraq should not be lifted.

'Aziz added: We met with all the UN Security Council members with the exception of the U.S. side. We met some of them more than once and some of the meetings were joint meetings. I also met with other Council members and with ambassadors of nonmember countries. An indepth discussion was held about all the stands. As to what they expect the Council will do, they told us that the U.S. side stubbornly refuses to admit that progress has been achieved concerning the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Tariq 'Aziz said: If we count the number of UN Security Council members that call for changing the formula of the [periodic] statement, recognize that there is progress in the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, and which believe that the question of economic embargo imposed on Iraq should be tackled by the Council, we find that this number represents the majority within the Council.

'Aziz said that they have been more understanding and more responsive than any time before to what Iraq has to say on the various issues, whether the issue of weapons and the implementation of Section C of Resolution 687, or the other issues that are raised against Iraq. He said that the main reason for this change between 1992 and until now is due to Iraq's steadfastness. He said Iraq's stand now finds better understanding than before.

'Aziz explained that the other positive aspects consist of the visits to Iraq by major business enterpreneurs from countries which have a say in this issue.

Tariq 'Aziz said another meeting will be held in July. This is a very important meeting and may be decisive. Perhaps, the deliberations and the discussions within the Council will last one month and perhaps Ekeus will raise a topic that has not been raised until now. But, this does not mean that the process of lifting the embargo has stopped or will stop. On the contrary, this process is advancing with firm steps and will produce its results, God willing.

'Aziz said that the world is moving in a direction that is opposite to that set by George Bush, which he called the new world order. It is now a world order that is different and where there is some kind of balance. That's why we see that they are paying attention to Iraq's stand. They are now listening to us. Those who listen to us and receive us in their capitals dispatch companies to discuss contracts and projects. Therefore, they know that the embargo on Iraq will be lifted.

Al-Sabah 'Clique' Welcomes Extension of Blockade

JN3105220894 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 21 May 94 p 2

[Text] The al-Sabah clique on Friday [20 May] welcomed the UN Security Council resolution extending the blockade on Iraq which was passed last Tuesday.

A spokesman for al-Sabah said the resolution once again confirmed the firm international stand to make Iraq fulfill, respond to, and honor all Security Council resolutions.

Blockade as Crusade Against Muslim Iraq Seen

JN0106124994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 May 94 p 4

["Signals" column by Yunus Hasan al-Samarra'i: "It Is a New War of the Francs"]

[Text] It is a world tyrant. It threw heavenly values overboard all over the world and then it trampled upon human rights while falsely bragging about them. It has confirmed its continued opposition to human rights in Iraq by its stupid insistence on continuing the unfair and unjust blockade.

This despot behaves like one who refuses to look into the mirror to avoid seeing his ugly face. The devils are in Washington and London. They do not even bother to read about what Iraq has done to fulfill the UN Security Council resolutions, despite their unfairness.

They are targeting true Islam as expressed by Iraq. They want to finally liquidate Arabism and pan-Arab hopes in a new war of the Franks, albeit in a tattered garb.

Whoever reads history will understand the substance of the policy being pursued by the leaders of the capitalist Western powers. This is their custom toward the Arab world and Muslims. The Arab world knew them in the

war of the Francs, which the West called the Crusades, and the invasion of the Arab Levant by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem following the liquidation of the Islamic state in Andalusia. Our people knew them in contemporary history after the Balfour Declaration and the Sykes-Picot Agreement that divided the Arab homeland among France, Britain, and Italy, and through the U.S. empire, represented by U.S. domination of several Arab officials and the confiscation of their independent decisionmaking, as well as its complete domination of UN Security Council resolutions.

The United States must understand that no matter how much they suffer from hunger and the unfairness of U.S.-British policy, the Iraqis will be with the leader struggler Saddam Husayn, backing his decision, supporting his stand, upholding his opinion, and fighting at his behest. This is a fact that Western leaders must understand. It has been expressed by the poet who said: Even if they drown it in blood, Iraq will remain sincere to its Arabism.

Damn U.S.-British policy and its hostile stands against the Iraqi people! God is great and victory will always be for the leader of Iraq and his great people.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Ba'th Party Branch Leaders

JN0106174194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jun (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today presided over a meeting of the party's Baghdad branch commands. Sa'di Mahdi Salih and 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, members of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party, were in attendance.

Foreign Minister Meets Oman's Bin-'Alawi in Cairo

JN0106140494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met here today with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs.

The minister briefed his Omani counterpart on the positive developments that have taken place at the UN Security Council in favor of lifting the Iraq sanctions. He also informed him of Iraq's efforts to lift the sanctions clamped on its people, particularly since the justifications for maintaining the sanctions no longer exist.

During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed the current Arab state of affairs, the means of promoting joint Arab action, and the items listed on the agenda of the Nonaligned Movement's ministerial conference.

Assembly Speaker Calls For Healing Arab Rift

JN3005155094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has called for healing the rift among the Arab nation's ranks through a positive and unified Arab position based on cooperation and developing the mutual fraternal interests of all sides.

During a National Assembly session here today, he expressed Iraq's readiness to develop this position to put the Arab house in order in the interest of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The National Assembly speaker reviewed the situation in the Arab and international arenas, as well as developments in light of the U.S. statements on the continuation of the embargo and the postponement of lifting it in violation of the desire of the international community, particularly the UN Security Council itself.

He said that the increasing world calls for lifting the embargo indicate all countries' desire to restore relations with Iraq to their previous level and to establish economic and trade relations in a way that will achieve their interests in this important region of the world.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih praised the international efforts to this effect, and said that the calls by France, Russia, China, Brazil, Spain, Pakistan, Nigeria, and other states constitute a positive stand toward the Iraqi people. He expressed the hope that these efforts will bear fruit in the interest of our people and nation.

'Reconciliation' Between Kurdish Factions Viewed

JN3105221894 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 19 May 94 p 1

[Column by Nasrallah al-Dawudi: "Ill-fate"]

[Text] The current fighting between the agents in our beloved Iraqi Kurdistan has revealed several facts.

First, it has revealed the enemies' real intentions behind the creation of the so-called "security zone." The pages of their scenario are being blown away one after the other. Having plundered the gains made for the autonomy, which was engineered by the symbol of national unity President Saddam Husayn; turned the region into a den for Zionist espionage, and spread chaos and ruination in that Iraqi paradise, the enemies have now moved to the final page in that illusory scenario; namely, the liquidation of Kurds by manipulating agents and turning them against one another in fierce fighting in which thousands of our innocent people are falling victims in accordance with a set plan which is being implemented by these agents with the recklessness of traitors, the lack of conscience of agents, and the treason of criminals.

Second, the agents who are befriending each other today are past enemies, and they will continue to be enemies despite their common interests and evil designs against our dear Iraqi Kurdistan. The Kurdistan Democratic Party cannot strike an alliance with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Their age-old conflict cannot possibly be removed by a theatrical signing of a treasonous agreement against the homeland and the people. The conflict between the two sides has continued for decades. So, it cannot simply be resolved on the table of negotiations even if it is a table of treason and charlatanry on which these agents have been brought up. Here are the facts being revealed and here are the cities, streets, districts, and subdistricts of Kurdistan streaming with blood caused by the fighting between these agents over the illusory booty of treason and mercenariness. Here is Jalal Talabani acquiring an additional characteristic of "fear." He says he cannot enter the region unless he is received by Mas'ud Barzani in Faysh Khabur and is personally accompanied into the region as an expression of this shaky reconciliation deal. Being birds of a feather, the intentions have become known and have therefore been rejected.

MIO Unit Produces Rubber Products for Industry

JN3005194394 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 18 May 94 p 12

[Text] Jabin Bin-Hayyan Establishment, one of the units of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], has produced millions of rubber pieces and parts for several industrial firms in Iraq as its contribution toward beating the unfair blockade.

The director general of the establishment said these pieces have been sold to the General Leather Industries Establishment for use in the production of bags. He also said that large quantities of plastic containers have been sold to the General Medicines and Medical Equipment Company.

The director general added that millions of other rubber pieces have been sold to the Oil Ministry for use in repairing and maintaining gas cylinder valves, which used to be imported with hard currencies. He said that large quantities of school rulers of different sizes were sold to the Ministry of Education. He affirmed that Establishment teams have succeeded for the first time in manufacturing and producing rubber lids for oil tanks belonging to the Oil Ministry according to high standard specifications to meet the ministry's needs.

Produces Boilers, Induction Coil

JN3105220694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 21 May 94 p 12

[Text] Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] teams in "17 April Factory" have succeeded in producing industrial equipment to help beat the unjust blockade on our people.

The teams produced two electric boilers with capacities of 100 and 80 liters. The boilers are useful in the production of silica glue, which requires heating for higher concentration. Silica glue is used in basic materials that go into the production of ceramic moulds and also in textile and paper industries.

The teams have also produced a mill for grinding (malachite) which is used in production of ceramic moulds, refractory cement, furnaces, and heat-resistant moulds. The designed production capacity of the mill is 480 kg during a 24-hour operational period.

MIO teams in "17 April Factory" have succeeded for the first time in producing induction coil for melting and casting furnaces. This equipment, which is essential in induction furnaces to transform electric power into thermal power, is used in melting such metals as brass and aluminum. The induction coil used to be imported with hard currencies from abroad.

Maintenance of Machinery in Karbala' Reported

JN3105214194 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 21 May 94 p 12

[Text] Technical and engineering teams in Karbala' Governorate have completed a campaign for maintaining and repairing a number of medical and electrical equipment, as well as machinery belonging to health departments in the governorate.

The campaign involved the maintenance of 25 electric washing machines in al-Husayni, Maternity, and al-Hindiyah Hospitals, seven ambulances, 785 beds, and 55 medicine cupboards. The campaign also involved maintenance of internal doors in 10 health centers. All this was done according to the Iraqi method of prudence.

Local 'Solvents' Produced for al-Najaf Tire Factory

JN3105213594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 May 94 p 2

[Text] Al-Dawra Refinery teams have succeeded in producing several local alternative products by relying on their resources and capabilities in defiance of the unfair blockade on Iraq.

The director general of the General Oil Refining Establishment in the central region explained that engineering teams in the Research and Development and Light Crude Sections of the refinery have produced two local solvents to help bolster the national industry. These solvents, he said, go into the production of tyres. A production unit has been modified to produce sufficient quantities of these solvents to meet the needs of the tyre factory in al-Najaf.

Drilling Company To Dig Water Wells in al-Najaf

JN3105212794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 May 94 p 3

[Text] The Iraqi Drilling Compnay, which belongs to the Oil Ministry, has scored higher percentages in drilling water wells for the General Irrigation and Land Reclamation Establishment in different Iraqi governorates.

A spokesman for the company said a contract was signed with the Establishment to drill 200 wells in al-Najaf at depths ranging from 100 to 200 meters at a total cost of 16 million dinars.

The spokesman added that company teams are implementing this project using their own resources and capabilities despite geological hardships.

Major Grain Harvest Campaign in Ninawa Reported

JN3105204394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 18 May 94 p 4

[Text] Nineveh—A wheat and barley harvest campaign to defeat the unfair food embargo on Iraq and to ensure food for the people has begun in Ninawa Governorate with the participation of 1,900 harvesters and hundreds of trucks to transport grain from harvest areas to more than 44 marketing centers scattered all over the governorate.

AL-THAWRAH mission, which visited harvest and marketing areas in the company of Governor Staff Lt. Gen. 'Abd-al-Wahid Shannan Al Ribat, who is also chairman of the governorate's Higher Harvest and Marketing Committee, saw large numbers of peasants and farmers marketing their crops and benefiting from the many incentives offered by the government under the direction and support of leader President Saddam Husayn both with regard to the new higher purchase prices and the guaranteeing of all requirements for cultivation, harvesting, and marketing.

The governor told AL-THAWRAH: With God's blessing, and in the name of the struggler leader Saddam Husayn Ninawa, the bread basket of the great Iraqi people began on 10 March its jihadist campaign to provide food for the Iraqis and to abort the unjust blockade against our steadfast people. The noble, righteous Iraqis concerted all their efforts in order to implement the campaign and to bring it to a successful conclusion on time. Thousands of participants in this campaign proceeded to the harvest and marketing areas.

The governor affirmed that in fulfillment of the interest, follow up, and patronage of our leader struggler, Saddam Husayn, and in order to bring this campaign to a successful conclusion in our dear governorate, which is consioered the biggest cultivator, harvester, and marketer of grain in our country, the government has exerted enormous efforts and offered great help toward the harvest and marketing campaign.

Harvest Operations in Babil, Irbil

JN3105192994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 May 94 p 4

[Text] Babil/Nineveh—The Central Harvest Committee in Babil Governorate has held an expanded meeting under Governor al-Hakam Hasan 'Ali to follow up on the stages of the national harvest and marketing campaign in the districts and subdistricts.

At the beginning of this meeting, which was attended by the comrades secretary and members of the Babil party branch and the chairmen and members of the subcommittees, the conferees reviewed the areas that have been harvested so far and the quantities of grain that have been received in the marketing centers, as well as the measures that have been taken to pay the producers.

Meanwhile, Makhmur District of Irbil Governorate is witnessing continuous efforts by the harvest and marketing committees taking part in the big harvest and marketing campaign for wheat and barley in order to finish the campaign on time.

Faris Rasul Qadir, deputy secretary general of the Economic and Financial Affairs Department in the Autonomous Region who is in charge of the committee receiving wheat and barley crops, has said that the current season will be good, God willing and with the vigor of the sons of our struggler people. Receiving centers and silos have begun receiving 100-120 truckloads daily thanks to the enthusiasm of peasants and farmers in selling their crops, he said. He added that bank branches in the receiving centers are paying the prices of these crops on the same day.

Harvesters To Be Given to 'Outstanding Peasants'

JN3105214894 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 21 May 94 p 12

[Text] The Babil Governorate Harvest and Marketing Committee has decided to distribute eight harvesters to outstanding peasants in the governorate and to increase collective manual harvest of wheat and barley.

Bread Symposium Targets Grain Storage, Home Baking

JN0106072194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 May 94 p 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Bari al-Hariri]

[Text] A special symposium on the Arab bread loaf, organized by the Arab Federation for Food Industries in coordination with the Ministries of Trade and Agriculture, has called upon all Arab states to exert their efforts to lift the unjust blockade on the Iraqi people.

The symposium also called for exploiting all means in order to increase the production of wheat and grains and to build strategic storage for these crops. It also called for the formation of joint working teams to help coordinate

Arab positions on the purchase of wheat and grain, and for the establishment of an authoritative Arab center for scientific research and technological development concerned with making bread and setting unified Arab specifications for a standard Arab loaf.

Dr. Falah Sa'id Jabr, secretary general of the Arab Federation of Food Industries, told AL-THAWRAH that the symposium proposed the establishment of an operations room to follow world wheat and grain prices in light of the new world changes that are expected to follow the application of the integrated "quality" and new "GATT": agreements.

Dr. Jabr pointed out that the symposium also proposed revising the existing law on grain publicity, improving the competence of those in charge of laboratory tests, and setting up new standards for evaluating the performance of governorates in grain production.

The symposium called on the peasants productive cooperative movement, investors, and farmers to build silos according to proper engineering designs in order to store produced grain close to the production areas, where it will be at the disposal of the Ministry of Trade.

The symposium's recommendations also proposed improving current milling methods, examining methods of refining flour in all mills, limiting use of very fine sieves in the first sieving and grinding stages, deploying mobile maintenance workshops to serve mills and bakeries in all parts of Iraq, paying greater attention to the question of producing home-made bread, encouraging the use of home gas ovens, and reducing waste as a result of sieving flour at home.

Katyushas Fall in Nahariyya Area; No Casualties

TA0206101694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Here is a report just in: Several Katyusha rockets fell a short time ago in the Nahariyya area. There were no casualties.

Two More Barrages Reported

TA0206124094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Another two volleys of Katyusha rockets were fired over the past hour at the western Galilee and at south Lebanon's security zone. This was reported by correspondents Yo'av Aviv and Nati Zilberman. The first barrage was launched at the same area approximately two hours ago. There were no casualties or damage in any of the three barrages. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery shelled the sites from where the rockets were fired. Life continues normally in the western Galilee.

Deputy Defense Minister Comments

TA0206145294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Razi Barqay; place not given—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Good day Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur.

[Gur] Good afternoon.

[Barqay] Have we gone back to a succession of attacks and counterattacks?

[Gur] Listen, Hizballah never halted its attacks for even one moment, day or night. Fortunately for us, some of their activities fail and the Israeli public never learns about them. Our soldiers, however, have to suffer them on a permanent basis. Therefore, we will strike back at them with all the measures at our disposal.

[Barqay] Have they, in other words, failed from the very beginning to uphold the famous agreement not to fire Katyushas.

[Gur] They kept the agreement and so did we. The agreement stipulated that Israel would not shell civilian areas and they would not shell Israel's borders. We did not fire at any civilian settlement. We operate against Hizballah in the framework of the understandings reached after Operation Accountability [late July 1993]. Today's launching of Katyusha rockets at Israel was definitely a provocative act by Hizballah which contravenes the agreement and we will have to examine how to deal with this matter.

[Barqay] In other words, Mordekhay Gur, today's air force raid did not infringe upon the understandings?

[Gur] Definitely not, today's attack on enemy targets without harming civilians is within the parameters of our rights as part of the war currently being waged there. The attack was directed purely, completely, and fully against enemy soldiers belonging to Hizballah. Each one of these soldiers had either participated in operations against Israel already, or was preparing to participate in such attacks in the near future. Therefore, this was a pure military operation which scored an impressive success.

[Barqay] Did we have prior intelligence information that dozens of Hizballah personnel would be meeting there?

[Gur] You surely do not expect me to give you an intelligence briefing now. I can only recommend that all the Arab armies, especially Lebanon and Syria, take a good look at how the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] performs not only at roadblocks or during occasional and regrettable incidents, but rather when it decides to act and concentrates its capabilities, know how, intelligence, and technology. When that happens the IDF knows how to win and it will always emerge victorious.

[Barqay] Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan has proposed expanding the security zone to preclude the launching of Katyusha rockets.

[Gur] First of all, the Katyusha rockets could always have a longer range. Second, they can move in long-range artillery and there is no limit to this. I see absolutely no point in expanding the security zone. What I most certainly hope for is that both the Lebanese and the Syrians stop placing obstacles on the road to peace with Lebanon. The Syrians must also understand that the time has come for Lebanon, and its citizens in the southern part of the country, to enjoy some peace. Our citizens in the north also deserve to have some calm and tranquility. This could become achievable within a very short time if the Syrians and Iranians stopped preventing the Lebanese from reaching an agreement with us.

[Barqay] Do the Katyusha barrages obligate Israel to react? Perhaps even a ground offensive?

[Gur] I leave that for the government to decide.

[Barqay] But you said that the Katyushas constituted a gross violation of the agreement.

[Gur] Undoubtedly.

[Barqay] So the region is going to heat up?

[Gur] I did not say what will happen there because Israel reserves its freedom of action. Last night's operation achieved tremendous results. Now we can carefully examine what we have to do. There is no rush. We are not making off the cuff decisions. We are acting according to the clear and supreme security interests of the State of Israel.

[Barqay] Did we inform the United States in advance of the operation?

[Gur] Permit me to ignore any political questions connected to this affair.

[Barqay] Did we receive any negative feedback from the Americans following the operation?

[Gur] Not that I know of. Perhaps it is still early. The entire world knows about Hizballah's activities and is aware of the support the organization receives from Syria and Iran. The reaction coming in corresponds to this. The entire world recognizes Israel's right to protect its sovereignty and enable its citizens along the northern border to live in peace.

[Barqay] Thank you, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur.

Rabin Dismisses 'Arafat's Remarks on Jerusalem

TA0106182294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The prime minister has dismissed Yasir 'Arafat's remarks that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine. Mr. Rabin reacted to 'Arafat's remarks today, saying: He can talk. In a meeting of leaders of the Jewish National Fund at the Hyatt Hotel in Jerusalem Rabin stated: I heard that somebody in Tunis said something; I would like to declare here that united Jerusalem is the capital of the Jews and so it will remain forever. Our correspondent Esti Peres reported the prime minister's remarks.

Peres Letter to 'Arafat on E. Jerusalem Detailed

TA0206102994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jun 94 pp A1, A8

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Israel promised the PLO that the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem will continue to exist and operate in an orderly fashion. This pledge was made in a letter sent by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres several months ago to former Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst, who was to convey the letter to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

In the letter, Peres quoted from his Knesset address of 9 September 1993, in which he said that Israel would be committed to the "orderly functioning of the various religious institutions which exist and operate in the city" and that "coexistence in Jerusalem is a matter of mutual respect among all its residents and of the orderly functioning of the relevant institutions and systems." Peres noted the "social, religious, and other institutions" of each ethnic community in the city, as well as the existence of each ethnic community's separate educational system.

'Arafat asked Israel for the letter in order to preserve the political status quo in Jerusalem in anticipation of the discussions on the city's status in the course of the permanent arrangement negotiations due to begin in about two years. In response to his request, Israel sent the letter several weeks after the Declaration of Principles [DOP] was signed in Washington.

The letter's existence and contents were kept secret, and it was not publicized along with other documents attached to the Israeli- PLO agreements.

A senior political element associated with the peace talks said yesterday that "the agreements with the PLO contain no secret addenda or secret letters. There is nothing secret in a speech delivered at the Knesset. We did not try to hide the letter, but no one asked us to make its content publics." According to this source, " 'Arafat did not say that his recognition of Israel and the signing of the DOP were contingent on the receipt of a letter concerning Jerusalem."

The senior political element said that the letter received by 'Arafat refers only to Palestinian institutions that operated in Jerusalem at the time of Peres' Knesset speech in September. According to him, Israel opposes the establishment and operation of new Palestinian institutions that are political in nature. "We will not touch the existing bodies, but we will not permit new ones to be established," he stressed. [passage omitted]

French Warning Worries Officials

TA0106185694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] If Israel prevents working meetings by French diplomats at East Jerusalem's Orient House, France will, in reaction, restrict the meetings of its representatives with Israeli representatives in Jerusalem. This was made clear by a senior French Foreign Ministry official in a meeting held at Israel's Embassy in Paris. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that Jerusalem is concerned by the increasing Palestinian pressure, exerted through foreign countries, for the achievement of a political status in Jerusalem.

Settlers Organize To Prevent 'Arafat's Arrival

TA0106181794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Report by Rina Matzliah]

[Text] Our correspondent Rina Matzliah has learned the details of a secret plan drawn up by the settlers in the territories, under which they will try to take over two points within the autonomy area in Jericho and hold onto them in an attempt to foil the arrival of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Our correspondent reports from the place where the settlers have convened:

[Begin Matzliah recording] The heads of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza rented a particularly large hall for a particularly large convention in which their protest activities for the coming days are being presented. Jerusalem and Jericho are the two centers of these protest activities. In Jericho the settlers plan to take control of two Jewish points: the Na'aran

synagogue which, contrary to its name, is not located near Kibbutz Na'aran but rather inside the autonomy area, and the Hasmonean Palace which is also located inside the autonomy area. The settlers intend to take control of these two points, to establish facts on the ground, and to remain there, as was the case with the ancient synagogue in Jericho.

A large-scale protest is planned for Jerusalem too. The heads of the council are negotiating with businessmen in Jerusalem in an attempt to stage a general strike there on the day Yasir 'Arafat arrives in the area. Most importantly, do not dare let the PLO leader climb Temple Mount. [end recording]

Government To Cease Funding for Gaza 'Busywork'

TA3005171094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] In the wake of the implementation of the autonomy agreement, Israel will stop financing busywork jobs for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Security sources noted that in May Israel employed 18,000 Gazans in busywork jobs at a cost of 20 million shekels. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Faysal al-Husayni announced that the Palestinians would shortly have enough money to finance the expenses stemming from the implementation of the Gaza- Jericho agreement.

The Agriculture Ministry will immediately proceed to set up a special unit to oversee the passage of produce from the autonomy to Israel. The unit will tighten controls on shipments of produce from the territories to the ultra-Orthodox community. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that the decision to establish the unit already at this point was made at a special meeting with the agriculture minister in a bid to curb the smuggling of produce by taking advantage of the permits given to the ultra-Orthodox community which is currently observing a ritual fallow year. Originally, the unit was scheduled to be established only after the opening of the borders with the autonomy to the passage of produce.

Industrialist Critical of Palestinian Business Stance

TA2705153494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Yoram Lizovsky, chairman of the Israel Manufacturers Association, has divulged that PLO political elements are demanding that foreign companies wanting to maintain business relations with the Palestinians refrain from cooperating with Israel. Mr. Lizovsky also was disappointed and concerned about the decision of PLO political elements not to involve Israeli companies in investments in the autonomous area. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that Mr. Lizovsky, addressing the Ra'ananna Economic Club, noted that the only benefit that the Israeli economy is reaping from the political process is an increase in the number of foreign economic delegations coming to Israel.

Free Agricultural Imports From Autonomy Delayed

TA2805112594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur has decided to delay the opening of Israel's borders for free passage of agricultural produce from the autonomy until satisfactory compensation is provided to Israeli farmers.

According to the agreement, the borders were to open this week for free passage of fruit, vegetables, cattle, and flocks—apart from poultry—eggs, tomatoes, cucumbers, and potatoes, which will gradually be allowed in under quotas. The Ministry of Agriculture is to approve the import of vegetables from the Gaza Strip into Israel in a few days time. Tests show there is no danger in the vegetables and the farmers there do not use pesticides. Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur is to instruct the ministry to publish all information concerning laboratory tests on agricultural produce as of tomorrow. Recently, tests of fruit and vegetables showed the remnants of dangerous pesticides have been found in several Israeli agricultural products. The contaminated produce was destroyed and the farmers were fined.

Group Claims Restrictions Violate Accord

TA0206104694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] The organization Peace Watch claims that Israel has violated the autonomy agreement signed in Cairo by limiting the entry of agricultural products from Gaza into Israel. The independent watch-dog group said the eighth paragraph in the fourth appendix calls for free passage to markets.

Israel has limited the entrance of agricultural products from the autonomous area until proper compensation is arranged for Israeli producers and until quality control for agricultural products and livestock are ensured. A joint Israeli-Palestinian committee has been set up to deal with the matter.

Twelve Wounded in Ramallah Disturbances 1 Jun

TA0106080594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Twelve Arab residents were wounded by soldiers' gunfire during serious disturbances and clashes with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there is a general strike in Ramallah today to commemorate the death of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist in the clash with the security forces yesterday.

Death of Soldier in 30 May Incident Result of Friendly Fire

TA0206045694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] inquiry has concluded that reserves soldier Shlomo Shitrit, who was killed on the edge of the Gaza Strip earlier this week, was accidentally shot by another soldier. Qol Yisra'el's military reporter Karmela Menashe says that in contrast to initial reports, soldiers did not come under terrorist fire and it transpires there were irregularities in the way the troops acted.

Reserves soldiers serving on the border of the Gaza Strip met with the head of Army Southern Command, Major General Matan Vilna'i, this week and complained of uncertainty about the new situation and lack of equipment.

Labor MK Efrayim Sne Appointed Health Minister

TA2905145294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] The Labor Central Committee approved by a decisive majority the appointment of Knesset Member [MK] Efrayim Sne as health minister. Prime Minister Rabin said that in view of the difficult situation, Israel needs a full-time health minister. There is nobody to talk to in the Histadrut Labor Federation and its Kupat Holim health fund is bankrupt. Mr. Rabin said the two other ministerial portfolios are being saved for SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that a minister without portfolio, either Yosi Beilin or MK Avraham Burg, is also expected to be appointed.

MK Sne thanked the Central Committee for its support and called on Kupat Holim Director General Avigdor Kaplan to remain in his post and participate in the efforts to rehabilitate the fund.

Approved by Knesset

TA0106183994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] By a large majority the Knesset today approved the appointment of Efrayim Sne as health minister. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that supporting the appointment were 45 Knesset members [MK's], including YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] members and the National Religious Party's Yig'al Bibi. Opposed were 19 MK's.

The health minister is currently holding his first work meeting with ministry officials.

No Stand Yet on 'Worrisome' Italian Developments

TA0206100794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Today's edition of the high-circulation Rome newspaper CORRIERE DELLA SERA reports in its banner headline that Israel has decided to cool its relations with Italy due to the inclusion of neofascist ministers in its government. This is reported by our correspondent Yosi Bar.

Reacting to this report, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that the Israeli Government has not yet adopted any position with regard to the worrisome developments in Italy and that the Foreign Ministry is currently formulating its policy. This is reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Trade Minister Harish To Hold Talks in Brussels

TA3005111394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish left for Brussels this morning for talks with European Union representatives. His talks are expected to focus on the opening of the European market to Israeli products in the telecommunications field. Harish will also discuss the problem of customs duties imposed on processed agricultural products from Israel.

Tourism Minister Leaves for Japan, S. Korea, China

TA3105114494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am leaves today for Japan, South Korea, and China. Bar'am will meet with his counterparts in these countries to promote tourism with Israel. The Tourism Ministry says in China he is due to sign a cooperation agreement, and in Seoul he'll meet with a group of businessmen interested in investing in tourism in Israel.

Envoy Meets Ethiopian Official on Falash-Mura Issue

TA0106193994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Report by correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] Ethiopia threatens to expel and detain thousands of the Falash-Mura who are crowding the Israeli Embassy in Addis Abeba. The official in charge of emigration in Ethiopia anticipates that the continued transfer to Israel of those claiming to be Falash-Mura will result in an incident between the two countries and in a political crisis in Ethiopia. These details are included in telegrams which were sent to Israel this week from the embassy in Ethiopia and which reached our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, as follows:

A few days ago Uri Noy, Israel's ambassador in Ethiopia, was sent to a closed meeting with the inspector general of Ethiopia's police who is also responsible for prisons and emigration from that country. At the meeting our ambassador asked that the number of Falash-Mura who want to unite with their Jewish brethren in Israel be increased from 80 to 200 per month. The ambassador also asked that the mechanism for sorting them out in the capital, Addis Ababa, and in Ethiopia's northern districts be expanded, at a time when thousands of Falash-Mura are already knocking on the Addis Ababa embassy's doors and rumors lead many others to flow into the capital from the north.

Reports about the meeting which reached Jerusalem and us indicate that (Hasan Shifa'), a senior Ethiopian official, believes this is a very sensitive issue which may, and I quote, harm Ethiopian integration and cause his country to disintegrate. He claims that such organized emigration runs counter to his government's policy and will turn northern Ethiopia into another Israeli district. If this issue becomes the focus of interest, it will explode due to its sensitivity. In his opinion, the transfer of Jews from Ethiopia to Israel is over, and the decision on family reunions is erroneous and will culminate in a disaster. The official in charge of emigration told Israel's ambassador that by Israel's criteria, all northern Ethiopia residents, including even himself, are entitled to immigrate to Israel. In short, the Ethiopians turned down all the ambassador's requests. In another telegram to Jerusalem, Uri Noy recommended that the smaller quota of immigration remain and that very low-profile treatment be accorded those awaiting immigration outside the capital.

[Later in the newsreel Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban reacts to the above report, saying that "the sensational preoccupation with the Falash-Mura problem makes it very difficult for the government to implement its decision to bring them to Israel as part of its family reunion plan. Those who do not respect the Ethiopian Government's sensitivity about this complex affair may foil the humanitarian solution of this problem."]

Medical Team To Establish UN Hospital in Angola

TA2905160794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] In a few months Israel will send a medical team to Angola which will operate within the framework of the UN peacekeeping forces. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that a plan was worked out today in a meeting at the deputy foreign minister's office which aims to incorporate Israel into various UN activities. The Israeli team will establish a field hospital in Angola manned by about 80 nurses and physicians, all of them from Israel.

'Senior' Labor Arab Activists Leave for Amman

TA0106143994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] A delegation of senior Arab activists in the Labor Party left this morning for Amman to pay their condolences to King Husayn on the death of his mother. The delegation numbers 20 people. It's the first time a delegation associated with the Labor Party is being allowed to officially visit Jordan.

Visas To Turkey No Longer Necessary

TA2905145394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] The Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv has announced that beginning on 1 June Israelis will no longer need entry visas for visits to Turkey lasting less than three months.

First Cuban Delegation Since Six-Day War Arrives

TA3105110794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] The first Cuban delegation to visit Israel since ties were cut after the Six-Day War has arrived here. The group is headed by the vice-president of the Cuban Institute for International Friendship, Professor Dolores Diaz. She said the delegation did not come on an official visit, but to nurture ties between the two countries.

House Speaker Responds to Yemeni Mediation Request

JN0106190994 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Amman, 1 Jun (PETRA)—Mr. Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the House of Representatives, has said that the house and the Jordanian people whom we represent are vigorously opposed to the fighting taking place between the brothers in Yemen. Jordan, al-Masri said, stands for the unity of the Yemeni people and their country.

In a letter replying to one from Mr. Anis Hasan Yahya, a member of the Yemeni House of Representatives, al-Masri noted that, toward that end, Jordan's political leadership has done all it could. Jordan, al-Masri's letter went on, will pursue urgent efforts and consultations with our country's political leadership, as well as with brother Arabs, and explore avenues to bring the fighting to an end. Jordan's moves will be based on its conviction in the cause of the unity of the Yemeni people and territory, the letter said.

The house speaker had received a message from Mr. Yahya seeking the Jordanian House of Representatives' good offices to bring the hostilities to a halt and end the dispute in brotherly Yemen. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Imperialist Conspiracy' Against Yemen Viewed

JN0206100894 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 2 Jun 94 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Security Council is Murdering Security"]

[Text] The concealed U.S. hands, and the United States' flagrant involvement in fomenting the Yemeni war, have now begun to appear. This was to settle the old accounts of the Gulf war in reply to the Yemeni's pan-Arab position and to teach the Yemeni leadership a hard lesson for its pan-Arab role in the Mother of Battles.

When Yemen joined the Arab Cooperation Council, certain Gulf states were outraged because they considered it the backyard of the Gulf and the Roman theater in which they watch the rivers of blood flow to kill their boredom of money and oil.

Since the Gulf War ended, the United Stats has been hatching conspiracies to destroy the pan-Arab flame in Yemen and place its shores and Bab el-Mandeb under U.S. control to complete the occupation of the entire Arabian Peninsula and its long shores.

The UN Security Council's intervention in a domestic affair without the request of the responsible Yemeni party also comes to avenge the Jordanian stands, which certain Gulf states still abhor because of, first, Jordan's fostering of the Arab Cooperation Council; second, its rational position in the Gulf war; and, third, its honorable mediation to spare Yemeni blood.

The new imperialist conspiracy did not stop at fragmenting Yemen's unity, isolating it, and pushing it into the quagmire of a long civil war. It went beyond that to the objective of aborting the Jordanian mediation and destroying its plan for pan-Arab renaissance—the Arab Cooperation Council, as well as destroying the effective Yemeni role in that Council. The more important objective of the conspiracy was to curb the Jordanian role and prevent it from contributing to the pan-Arab renaissance because the Arab Cooperation Council plan—which certain Gulf states viewed as a challenge and an axis hostile to their dreams and encroachment on their influence zones, primarily Yemen—was about to shatter the hopes of the U.S. imperialism to impose control on the Gulf. To avenge that position, certain Gulf states, acted quickly to complicate matters and push the situation in Yemen to a dead end. They used in the process certain Yemeni stooges to implement their conspiracy, with promises that they will be put in control if they implement their policies.

We denounce the UN Security Council's intervention in Yemen's internal affairs. We know in advance that any Arab subject that enters the Security Council will come out of it more complicated because the Security Council will not put things in the proper context and will, instead, complicate the problem, knowing that behind every Arab sedition there are American hands.

The Yemeni issue remains of concern to the legitimate Yemeni leadership and any foreign intervention in rejected. The Yemeni people will reject any Yemeni party that throws itself into the lap of U.S. imperialism to impose on its people a position that runs counter to their national aspirations. The Yemeni people have always been invulnerable to attempt at containment or hegemony and have crushed all conspiracies aimed at colonizing them and subjugating them to foreign hegemony.

We urge the Yemeni people and leadership to deny the conspirators every opportunity and to adhere to Yemen unity. We also urge them to utilize every chance for dialogue in order to foil the evil conspiracies and abort the big sedition.

ESCWA Conference Approves Report on Golan Residents

JN3005080194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Amman—The 17th ministerial session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, ESCWA, yesterday evening approved a report submitted by Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, the Commission's executive secretary, on the economic and social situation of the Syrian Arab citizens under Israeli occupation in the occupied Golan. After its approval yesterday, this report became

one of the UN documents condemning the savage practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Golan, Israel's violations of basic human rights, and Israel's looting of the occupied Golan's water and agricultural resources, as well as the building of illegal settlements in the Golan.

The session also approved reports on the Palestinian Arab people's situation in the occupied territories, the reconstruction of Lebanon, and cooperation among ESCWA member states on joint water resources, environment, continued development, and trade exchanges.

The participants in the session elected 'Abd-al-Rahman Madani, the [Syrian] irrigation minister and head of the Syrian delegation, as first deputy at the session. The ministerial session is scheduled to continue its meetings today in order to finish discussing the topics on the agenda, led by locating a permanent headquarters for ESCWA. Jordan, Qatar, and Lebanon offered to host this headquarters on a permanent basis.

The Syrian Arab delegation shared in introducing several amendments to phrases in the submitted reports. In their entirety, these amendments focused on canceling any phrase that may give the impression that there is support for the multilateral negotiations, particularly the issue of common waters.

Votes To Move Headquarters to Beirut

JN3105115394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 May 94 pp 1 3

["Special Report" for the JORDAN TIMES by Natasha Bukhari]

[Text] Amman—Heads of the delegations of member states to the 17th ministerial session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Monday voted to relocate the commission's headquarters from Amman to Beirut.

Informed sources told the JORDAN TIMES that the votes in favour of the move to Lebanon were made by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Syria, Kuwait, Egypt and Lebanon.

ESCWA headquarters was initially situated in Beirut, but was moved to Baghdad after the outbreak of the Lebanese civil war. It was then moved to Amman in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Iraq, voted alone to return the headquarters to Baghdad, said the sources.

Qatar voted to have the headquarters located in Doha, and Oman abstained from the voting.

Votes in favour of maintaining the commission's headquarters in Amman, according to sources, were cast by Yemen, Palestine and Jordan.

Jordan sought to call for a postponement of the vote, but of the seven votes needed to move to postponement, explained the sources, only six were cast in favour. A yes vote for postponement by Egypt would have tipped the balance for Jordan, added the sources.

According to the sources, the committee which reported to the closed meeting expressed apprehensions and reservations about moving the headquarters out of Jordan.

The move, sources said, is expected to take place in two years.

Earlier, participants to the ESCWA ministerial session discussed the restructuring and revitalisation of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, revision of the medium term plan for the period 1992-1997 and revision of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997.

During discussions on the designation of sectoral focal points of the commission's economic and social development programme, participants agreed that a general coordination plan between member states and their governments has to be structured.

"It is agreed that we need to establish bridges of communications between the concerned parties" to make possible the application of ESCWA programmes, said Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz who is heading the session.

Iraqi, Syrian, Egyptian and Qatari representatives stressed the importance of making comprehensive research studies on the exploitation of water in the region, saying that the issue of water management is one of the most vital points in the regions' economic relations.

Also on Monday's agenda was the financial status of the commission's programmes.

ESCWA Chief Administration John Truman said the initial appropriations for ESCWA's regular budget for the biennium 1992-1993 approved by the General Assebly amounted to $US 50,660,600. In 1993, he added, the commission estimated a saving of $US 12,432,700 from this initial appropriation.

They include "a freeze on recruitment, restrictions on travel of staff on official business, restrictions on the hiring of consultants, differences in post-adjustment for the professional staff between Iraq and Jordan, and differences in General Service salary scale between Iraq and Jordan."

The increasingly serious financial crisis faced by the United Nations in recent years is clearly reflected in the decreasing amounts allocated to ESCWA by the major sources of extrabudgetary funds, Mr. Truman said. The major sources of extrabudgetary funds for the past four bienniums have been the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund

for Women (UNIFEM), the government of the Netherlands and the government of France.

Yet, contributions from these sources have steadily declined. In the biennium 1992-1993, these resources amount to $US 1,218,350.

The financial situation of the regular budget was also addressed. Mr. Truman stressed the need for member states to "pay their contributions as soon as possible," as the financial situation is only manageable until August 1994.

The work of the 17th sesion, which addresses economic and social development programmes for its 13 member states, will be concluded today after delegations from the representative countries adopt the report of the commission on the session.

Housing Minister, PNA Member Discuss Cooperation

JN0106162594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] In his office at noon today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzq al-Nusur, minister of public works and housing, received Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] for housing. The ministry's director general and the director general of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation also attended the meeting.

Dr. al-Nusur said after the session that talks covered the question of housing in the self-rule areas. He indicated that the two sides will exchange views and technical expertise in the best interests of the two brotherly peoples. The Ministry of Public Works and Housing, al-Nusur noted, is placing all its technical expertise in institution building at the disposal of the Palestinians. The sides agreed that Jordanian contractors will receive preferential treatment in the self-rule areas.

Tourism Minister, PNA Counterpart View Cooperation

JN0106212094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Dr. Muhammad 'Affash al-'Adwan and his Palestinian counterpart, Ilyas Frayj, have expressed a desire to boost relations between the two brotherly peoples in all fields, especially in tourism and antiquities. At a meeting in Amman today, they reviewed the state of the tourist industry in Jordan and future ties between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

[Begin recording] [Frayj] The tourist industries in Jordan and Palestine complement each other. Both sides, therefore, have a vested interest in promoting the industry here in Jordan and in Palestine. In my opinion, the future promises to be lucrative for both the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. This region is home to the most important sacred and archaeological sites in the world. I anticipate a booming tourist industry. In a year or two a million or so tourists will be visiting Jordan and Palestine annually.

[Al-'Adwan] I have expressed our full readiness to support our Palestinian brothers, especially at this stage when they are planning to set up new institutions. We also told them we would be ready to provide training for our brother Palestinians in the tourism and archaeology industries. [end recording]

At the end of the meeting, the sides agreed to set up a joint committee to formulate an executive program for the full range of cooperation in the tourist industry between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority.

Al-Hasan, Korean Envoy Discuss Trade, Investment

JN2905141294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] Mr. Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Pak Su-chol, special envoy of the [South Korean] president in his office this morning. They explored ways to further ties between the two friendly countries, particularly in the economic sphere.

Al-Hasan pointed out to the Korean official the advantages of investment in Jordan and hoped for an increased volume of bilateral trade. He hoped Korea would import Jordanian phosphate and potash, noting their high quality and the fact that transportation did not present much of a problem.

For his part, Pak applauded his Majesty King Husayn's wisdom and dynamism as a leader of world stature and promoter of stability and security in the Middle East. His country, he said, wanted to see investment and cooperation with Jordan increased through joint ventures and exchange visits by the public and private sectors.

The Korean official arrived in Amman this morning.

Regent Confers With Korean Envoy

JN2905172394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 29 May 94

[Tex] His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, the regent, received South Korean presidential envoy Pak Su-chol.

The envoy conveyed to the regent a message from the South Korean president addressed to His Majesty King Husayn on bilateral ties.

Mr. Pak Su-chol said South Korea highly appreciated Jordan's role in keeping the stability and security of the Middle East, and praised the kingdom's endeavor to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

His royal highness reiterated Jordan's position towards the peace process and the need to attain just and permanent peace in line with UN resolutions.

Premier, ROK Envoy Discuss Peace Process

JN3005163494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office today Pak Su-chol, special envoy of the [ROK] president. They discussed relations between the two friendly countries, particularly in economic, technical, and technological areas, as well as ways of promoting bilateral cooperation.

During the meeting, Pak praised the democratic experiment in Jordan, as well as Jordan's effective role in supporting the peace process. The meeting was attended by Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, acting minister of state for foreign affairs, and the ROK ambassador in Amman.

Muslim Brotherhood Criticizes 'Retreats' in Democracy

JN0106082994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Jun 94 p 22

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has issued a statement about what it described as a retreat in the democratic march.

The statement said that "the manifestations and aspects of the retreats in the democratic approach include the dissolution of the House of Representatives before the expiration of its constitutional term, the amendment of the election law, arrests, interference in the work of the trade unions, and the dissolution of many municipal councils."

The statement said that despite the existence of certain institutions and forms of democratic life, one can see and feel what the statement described as retreats and setbacks which "do not conform to the principle of [Islamic] consultation [shura]."

The statement called for reevaluating these practices and adopting means and mechanisms to strengthen what the statement called the democratic shura principle and to prevent all forms of corruption and oppression so that Jordan might enjoy security and stability.

Conferees Apprehensive About Democracy's Future

JN0106120394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Jun p 10

[Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Sa'idah Kilani]

[Text] The democratic process in Jordan, a major stride in the history of the country and the region, is no more than a political overturn that is likely to be reversed, according to Jordanian specialists.

"The status quo is a transitory state between predemocracy and democracy, but staying in the same place for a long time is equivalent to a reversal (to the original status)," said Jamil al-Nimri, former chief editor of the opposition weekly AL-AHALI newspaper. "The presence of the old authority apparatus in power means the collapse of the democratic regime."

In a conference entitled the Jordanian Democratic Path, organized jointly by al-Urdun al-Jadid [New Jordan] Research Centre and Friedrich Ebert Foundation and held at the Forte Grand hotel, Mr. al-Nimri said that enormous restrictions were introduced by the laws enacted after the introduction of democracy in 1989 and they can only negatively influence the progress of democracy in the Jordanian society. These laws, he said, include the political parties law, the press and publications law, the defence law, the state security courts law, and the elections law. He said they include articles that can be used by the government to restrict freedoms.

Mr. al-Nimri, who is a member of the leftist party Hashd said the press and publications law "was used to file numerous cases against newspapers for publishing articles that were meant to enhance freedoms of expression.

"Those negative developments had decreased the people's interest in democracy and weakened the party life in the country which is not in favour of social and democratic growth." Mr. al-Nimri said.

The president of the Writers Association, Mu'nis al-Razzazz, said one of the most important factors influencing the "relative Jordanian democratic openness" is the developments in the Palestinian issue.

He said that Jordan's envisioned role in the process had hastened the introduction of democracy. Mr. al-Razzazz, Jordan's leading novelist and a leading columnist, pointed to several other factors that he considered crucial to the enhancement of democracy in Jordan. First, the failure of political parties in assuming a leading role in the Jordanian political life; setbacks that influenced the democratic march "that the country was not able to overcome were it not for the intervention of the King personally", the lack of participation of the intelligentsia in the civil society organisations such as Centre for the Study of Freedom, Democracy and human Rights in the Arab World.

"And perhaps the recent dramatic developments of the Palestinian issue can be considered as key factors leading to this reversal," he concluded.

Participants in the three-day conference sought to determine whether April 1987 riots were behind the introduction of democracy or not. Most said they feared a setback.

"More than four decades have passed since the promulgation of the Constitution, and, during this period, the Jordanian society had developed politically, socially and economically that it became necessary to amend and

introduce changes to certain articles," Sulayman Sweiss said during the evening session.

Dr. Sweiss, a prominent human rights advocate, cited the election law, prisons law, the press and publications law and the labour law as legislations that include articles that contradict human rights principles, and, therefore, should be amended.

"Official statements regarding human rights and democracy are almost close to slogans...what we direly need is serious and pragmatic steps and political will to translate official commitment to human rights into a reality," he added.

According to Dr. Sweiss, a national strategy should be adopted to enhance and develop human rights causes. Such a strategy, he said, should include the appointment of a national commissioner to protect human rights; official response to complaints filed by human rights organisations; the introduction of human rights principles in the school curriculum; the establishment of centres for enhancing democracy and human rights; and drafting a comprehensive plan for legal reform in order to revise laws and legislations in conformity with human rights principles and conventions.

Musa al-Kilani, chief editor of AL-DUSTUR newspaper, believes that the democratic process is going to be slow but steady. While pointing to several factors that hamper the enhancement of the democratisation process that he thought were beyond the government control, Dr. al-Kilani also criticised government hegemony over the media.

"The most powerful weapon the government uses in its control of the radio and television and the Jordan News Agency (PETRA), which are all promoting the government's achievements and its decisions," Dr. al-Kilani said.

"As for those newspapers that oppose the government's policies, the government resorts to old laws to punish them," he added. "It would be sufficient to know that there are currently 50 cases filed against newspapers"

Israeli Air Force Raids Target in al-Biqa'

Hizballah Training Base Hit

TA0206041194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] At dawn today, Air Force planes raided a terrorist target in the northern al-Biqa' Valley in Lebanon. All our planes returned safely. The target was a Hizballah training base. The pilots reported accurate hits on the target.

Defense Forces Confront Israeli Aircraft

NC0206045494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0435 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Israel is expanding the scope of its acts of aggression against Lebanese territory in an attempt to change the course of the bilateral talks with Lebanon into security ones. At dawn today, Israeli warplanes raided the Ba'labakk area after numerous overflights.

A security source made the following statement at 0600 today: The Israeli enemy has continued its acts of aggression against Lebanese territory. Israeli helicopters staged intensive overflights over Tannurin, Bsharri, and the al-Labwah areas in al-Biqa' between 2300 last night and 0200 today. The Israeli helicopters were confronted with Lebanese Army and Syrian Arab Forces defenses. At 0215 today the Israeli warplanes bombed a resistance training base in the Ba'labakk hills.

More Than 40 Killed, 50 Wounded

NC0206104594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] According to the latest reports, over 40 people were killed and 50 were wounded in the Israeli air raid.

Al-Hirawi Calls Raid 'Major Massacre'

NC0206092694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi stressed that the Israeli raid on al-Biqa' today was a major massacre that violated all human and moral values.

Following his meeting today with President al-Hirawi, Milhim Karam, doyen of the newspaper editors, cited the president as saying that while Lebanon was following up on its complaint to the United Nations over the Israeli piracy of Lebanese water, it was hit by a new aggression that demolishes all the Israeli excuses and pretexts. The president stressed that Lebanon will proceed with the complaint on the theft of Lebanese water to ascertain the extent of this piracy.

Karam added that President al-Hirawi mentioned that three brigades from the Lebanese Army will start a deployment in the al-Shuf and 'Alayh Districts on 15 June to ensure the return of the displaced persons.

Israelis Reinforce Positions, Build Base

NC0106114994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces brought 175-mm and 203-mm artillery pieces via Metulla to the eastern sector of the occupied border strip today. The Israeli forces installed two 175-mm guns in the al-Majidiyah area and two 203-mm guns in the Sahl al-Miri area.

A National News Agency correspondent said today that the occupation forces have constructed the biggest military base ever built inside the strip in the Mash'arun area at the southern entrance of Tallusah in the Marj 'Uyun District. The occupation forces destroyed 150 dunums of plantation land and erected earth barriers and concrete fortifications there.

Magazine Claims U.S. 'Encouraged' Kidnapping

NC0206065494 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 30 May 94 p 15

[Excerpt] As far as Israel and Washington are concerned, the importance of al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, who was kidnapped by Israel from his home in Qasr Naba, is that he was the official in charge of Central Security in the Amal Movement before he left it in 1988 and joined the "Faithful Resistance" [al-muqawamah al-mu'minah].

More specifically, he is important because the elements under his command were the ones who arrested Israeli pilot Ron Arad in 1986 after his military aircraft was shot down during an air raid near Sidon. The pilot remained in al-Dirani's custody for a period of time.

According to informed sources, Washington had prior knowledge of the kidnapping operation and encouraged it, provided that it was a "clean operation." Washington is interested in al-Hajj al-Dirani for one reason: He is accused, while he was an Amal official, of smuggling in his car U.S. intelligence officer William Higgins after he was kidnapped on 17 February 1988 and handing him over to the party that announced his execution in 1989, a few days after Israel carried out a commando operation in Jibshit in which it kidnapped Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. (At that time AL-SHIRA' published information indicating that Higgins was dead before Hizballah announced that it had executed him.) [passage omitted]

Buwayz Comments on Complaint to UN

NC0106165294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Jun 94

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents at Beirut Airport on 1 June—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Buwayz] For us, the return of the permanent headquarters of ESCWA [UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia] to Beirut is an important issue. Lebanon was the seat of this organization before

the Lebanese incidents broke out. This organization employs a large number of experts as well as locals. Lebanon can benefit from those employees, from the conferences to be held by this organization, and from the studies it will make for the Lebanese state and institutions. The decision to return ESCWA to Beirut was not an easy one, and it required a secret vote. However, I believe that Lebanon is entitled to repatriate this organization since it can provide the academic, scientific, and cultural atmosphere needed for its work.

[Correspondent] A report by the UN accuses Israel of stealing Lebanese waters, as is known. What will Lebanon do about it?

[Buwayz] This is a very delicate matter. We have repeatedly asked the UN and a number of organizations to thoroughly verify the matter. I cannot say as yet that we have proof that there is direct stealing of water in the south. So far, we have not had any clear reports pointing to that direction. The term stealing of water can be interpreted in various ways. First we have to define if we are talking about subterranean or surface water, underground water or river basins, rivers that originate and pour its water onto Lebanese territory or rivers that originate in Lebanon and flow into other territory. I believe that a careful examination of this matter is essential before taking any decision about it.

[Correspondent] The report mentioned the al-Litani and al-Wazzani rivers in particular.

[Buwayz] We will study this file thoroughly and we will act accordingly.

[Correspondent] Reports say that an informal meeting of the Security Council will be held to discuss Lebanon's complaint against Israel. What can you tell us about Lebanon's activity in this regard?

[Buwayz] As you know, despite the suspicions we have about the Security Council's treatment of the Israeli operation in Lebanon [to kidnap Faithful Resistance leader Mustafa al-Dirani], we wanted the Security Council to live up to its responsibilities. We hope that the Security Council will prove that it is still in existence, fair, and still reflects international justice. [passage omitted]

Hizballah TV Breaks Ban on Political Programs

NC0206093894 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 26 May 94 p 6

[Report by Hasan Darwish from Ba'labakk]

[Text] The Al-Fajr television station, which belongs to Hizballah, and the Sky television station, which belongs to 'Abdallah al-Husayni, brother of former Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, yesterday violated the Lebanese cabinet decision that bans the broadcast of news bulletins and political programs.

At 2045 yesterday, the two stations, which transmit from Ba'labakk, broadcast the full 15-minute recording of the news conference held by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah.

Shiite Leader Interviewed on Mideast Problems

NC2905205894 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 17 May 94 p 12

[Part one of an "exclusive" two-part interview with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, Chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, in Lebanon by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] Can you clarify the effects of the imposed peace in the Middle East and the negligent attitude of some governments toward confronting the effects of this imposed war in the Middle East?

[Shams al-Din] [passage omitted] We have witnessed with great regret that the Zionist movement has been successful over the Arabs and Muslims, though not in an actual war. This is also the case regarding our society and ummah. I do not wish to use unrealistic or anachronistic terms. In view of the fact that the designs of the Zionist movement have been implemented in Palestine, we can say that from this angle we have sustained defeat. They have completely driven us out of Palestine. Similarly, they have pushed us back in all areas, in our position in the world; so at present the issue is not just Palestine. Therefore, we are not pitted against a victorious enemy but we are an ummah who have been beaten back.

However, defeat does not mean that we have lost all our means of defense. I stress that the ummah has not used all its offensive resources but has merely suspended the use of its means for defense. [passage omitted]

Our condition at present is such that the Arab plan has failed and the Islamic plan has failed. The only place where the Islamic program continues is the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is also under an embargo that is being tightened in the political, economic, and security fields. I fear that the Zionists will drive a wedge thus paving the way for the infiltration of the enemy's designs of our ranks.

After the Arabs went to Madrid, I studied the pre-Madrid period in the light of the Fiqh and the shari'ah and I perceived many secondary elements, which cannot be considered primary ones in any way. First of all, I noticed that there were many unfortunate divisions prevalent in many areas. One was a division within the ummah at the political level with regard to political beliefs. The other was a dichotomy of interests between these forces and the ruling system. On this basis, we observe that some systems were facing a split in their ranks. [passage omitted]

In my opinion, we should study issues that are important and of primary interest. We are facing problems ourselves, such as the issue of the return of the government of Islam, victory of Islam, the application of the Islamic shari'ah and so on. We have the problem of Arab unity, of Pan-Arab nationalism, which is pressing. There are certain issues which would make the present systems appear illegal.

We have problems such as democracy and public freedoms; these are very widespread. From the late 1940's to the 1970's we experienced policies of coups d'etat in Arab countries. Saudi Arabia was the only exception in this regard. [passage omitted]

In principle, whatever is going on at present cannot be considered a peace. This is also not a compromise, because we define a compromise as when a person has a right to one of two disputed things. In such a case, the one who has the most relinquishes some of his rights for the sake of peace. What is going on now is actually between the rightful owner and a thief. This is not compromise, it is theft.

Thus, it is incorrect to term this a peace process when it is based on the retreat of one side. This is a retreat only on the part of one side and that is the one which is the rightful owner. What is going on now is for the purpose of legislating future interests; since it has resulted from domination, this form of legislation has no legal basis.

Western politicians say that this situation is a reality and has evolved this way. We tell them that evil is also a reality in this world, but should we bow down to it? We should resist it instead. [passage omitted]

The fact is that the ummah's struggle against Zionism is not a struggle of one generation at one particular time. The Zionist plot belongs to a nation which has placed itself in the thick of international interests; right from the outset, the ummah should fight against it, and it should be considered a struggle spanning many generations.

A long-term strategy should be formulated; part of this strategy is to ignore governments, because this struggle does not end with the death of a king or a president. It the battle of all the ummah, whether it spans one generation or three generations. We should also accept the fact that we will have many losses on this path. This is because the plot that we have to fight against is not confined to Palestine, but is a worldwide plot.

This is one of the strategic errors—that is, the Arabs thought they could combat Zionist plots in the short term. It is for this reason that we state that the ummah should reassert itself to combat the Zionist plot, as the ummah is not limited to a single generation.

Discusses Iran's Role in Middle East

NC3005113494 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 18 May 94 p 12

[Second and final part of "exclusive" interview with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, in Lebanon by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [ETTELA'AT] How do you view Iran's role in political, economic, and security developments in the Middle East?

[Shams-al-Din] The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the greater governments of the region and is capable of becoming even greater, in view of its population and geographical base. There is no doubt that a political role is of foremost importance.

We are confronting problems that we should be prepared to understand so that the region may not experience negative developments. We are aware that the region has entered a phase that is being characterized by peace operations in the Middle East and in the world. As I have said frequently, most of the Arab systems have not entered this phase willingly.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has not entered this phase and has declared its dissatisfaction with what has occurred ideologically and politically in the wake of the peace operations. Even though the Zionist entity is a regional phenomenon, it is an unlawful one.

If circumstances were to move toward what is known as peace talks, the region would be engulfed in conflicting political ideologies. One of these believes in compromise and abiding by the results of these talks and the other rejects compromise and its results; the last one is mostly prevalent in the Arab world. This is because the Islamic movements in the Arab world and in part of the non-Arab world contribute to this view and prefer this stance.

The current phase that is taking shape is placing heavy responsibility on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arab systems. We believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran is necessary for the Arab world and vice versa. Therefore, a proper policy should be formulated for an appropriate approach by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the realities present in the Arab systems. The latter should also have a more suitable attitude toward the stance chosen by the Islamic Republic of Iran—which should not be construed as inevitable—regarding the developments in the Middle East.

The stance adopted by Iran is its own choice and is not an unavoidable necessity as Iran can adapt to events. However, Iran has adopted the harder approach. At this stage, all of us should move toward coexistence to attain mutual understanding. If we were able to do so, it would be a major achievement.

The Iranian stance should be coordinated with Arab needs and vice versa so that it can assume a more suitable form. Without this equilibrium, an erratic and inappropriate trend will be generated on which the Zionists and the West will capitalize. They will be able to exploit the Arabs even more and will acquire more

power to strengthen the embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted].

I should emphasize that if God grants us success so that we are able to achieve conformity between the stances of the Arabs and the Islamic Republic of Iran, it will give Iran ample opportunity to share in the security of the region and to safeguard its own security. This will also enable it to minimize the siege that the West is seeking to impose on it.

However, if this reciprocal understanding is not achieved, I cannot express what ill-omened consequences it will have on the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran and on some Arab governments. We can also view the economic impact within this perspective. If the policies of the two sides are harmonized and yield results, the neighboring and non-neighboring countries will provide a suitable market for Iran and the Iranian market will probably be beneficial for them. This will generate reciprocal economic growth for Iran and the Arab governments. On this basis, we tell the Arabs that economic cooperation with Iran can be one of the most important instruments of resistance in the face of Zionist collusion.

Iran is capable of preventing the imminent compromise from happening, as was the case at the time of the Islamic Revolution when Iran created an equilibrium in the region. We are hoping for the glad tidings resulting from the closeness between the Islamic Republic of Iran and some of the Arab governments, such as the monarchies of Morocco and Jordan as well as the Kuwaiti Government.

We are optimistic that this scope will expand and that all the Arab countries will join this trend without exception; we have made efforts toward this end in the past. Regardless of who initiates this trend, it is hoped that both sides will adopt a positive approach toward it. I do not see any other means of promoting mutual relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arab world.

[ETTELA'AT] In view of the political, economic, and security developments in the Middle East, what difficulties do you foresee for Islamism and what avenues do you perceive for its future growth?

[Shams-al-Din] The most important issue for the Arab and non- Arab Muslims, after that of the Zionist regime, is the Islamic movement. This movement is a manifestation of the spirit of the ummah, which is a source of strength and power and exists among all Islamic nations. Iran is an exception among the Islamic movements as it was victorious, and today it is formulating its own policies. I can openly assert that whatever goes on outside Iran has a spiritual link to Iran. [passage omitted]

At its outset, the Islamist movement in Algeria mobilized all its resources in the elections, which was a mistake. It would have been better if it had not projected itself as the foremost force in Algeria, and as we mentioned to some of its prominent figures, it should have appeared on the scene gradually so that the Algerian system would not have risen in confrontation.

On the other hand, society was not ready to accept what the Islamist movement represented, as such a plan needs time in a society such as that of Algeria. It was not the kind of society in which the Islamic experiment could be implemented immediately.

It is necessary to ponder two topics: One is that only non-Islamic governments are against the Islamic movement. In fact, some of the nations who are not totally ready for this plan are on our side. Our nations are Muslim, and even though the experiment of a Western-style government has proved unsuccessful for them, this does not mean that they are ready to accept the Islamic experiment in view of their current obligations.

The other point is that the Islamic movement, with the exception of Iran, incorporates a political plan and needs the guarantee of a political democracy. It is possible that this could be in the form of a real council and not a pyramid-type structure.

After the Persian Gulf war, we proposed that an open, frank, and realistic debate on the negative effects of the organizational structure and existing trends in the strategy of the Islamic movements be conducted. This is because the Persian Gulf crisis underlined the deep problems that exist in the larger Islamic movement groups. We perceived that most of these problems resulted from the actions of Saddam Husayn, who had projected himself as an imam Khomeyni to the world. He tried to adopt the imam Khomeyni way of speaking and an approach used by Gamal 'Abd-al-Nasir.

There were many who were deceived by Saddam's slogans, and this caused a disruption in the relations between governments and nations with the Islamic movements. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] What is your appraisal of the present and future situation in Lebanon in the economic, political, and cultural areas?

[Shams-al-Din] At present all of us are waiting to see how events shape up. Some describe this period as a formative one or one of peace resulting from certain developments that are in the throes of materializing in the Middle East. In this environment, Lebanon is an area that is bound to be affected by regional developments, depending on the extent of its involvement in these events. In light of the nature of its domestic system, it is endowed with more brilliant and numerous factors for recovery than other Arab countries. Lebanon does not require internal economic changes, as it was the founder of a free economy in the region and has enjoyed greater democracy than other Arab countries.

Another factor that ensures Lebanon's future is the variety provided by the presence of Christian and

Muslim elements in its society. These are factors that lend it a distinctiveness compared to other Arab societies. If a plan to set up a system in the Middle East region or a proposal for a regional accord fails, Lebanon has resources to detach itself from this climate or to minimize the negative effects. I believe that, despite the presence of a state of political flux and a political crisis situation, Lebanon has put the dangerous stage behind it.

The conditions are not as bright as the Lebanese Government projects, but the current situation will not continue and the economic conditions will improve. I would not describe it as brilliant but I believe that in the next year we will witness better conditions in the Lebanese economy. [passage omitted]

New Yemeni Ambassador Arrives in Beirut

NC0106194194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Ahmad Muhammad al-Mutawakkil, the new Yemeni ambassador to Lebanon, arrived in Beirut this evening from Yemen via Amman. He was welcomed at the airport by Ambassador Ramiz Dimashqiyah, protocol director of the Foreign Ministry, and some staff members of the Yemeni embassy. The new Yemeni ambassador is expected to submit a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz next week, and to submit his credentials to President Ilyas al-Hirawi at a later date.

Minister Terms Israeli Attacks 'State Terrorism'

JN0206123094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman has asserted that the recent escalation of Israeli attacks on Lebanon is part of Israel's policy of organized state terrorism against Lebanon's sovereignty.

In an exclusive statement to Radio Monte Carlo, Dr. Salman said the timing of these attacks is part of Israel's continued attempts to undermine the peace process and obstruct U.S. efforts to end the stalemate in the peace talks, which were launched in accordance with the Madrid frame of reference. He noted that the cause of the stalemate is Israel's hard-line approach that rejects full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in return for full peace.

Official Rejects PLO-Type Deal With Israel

PM2605082594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 May 94 p5

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Damascus: We Will Not Be Dragged Along Like the PLO"]

[Text] Damascus—Syria said yesterday that it would not be dragged along to what the PLO was dragged to and that it would resist all Israeli expansionist plans and economic hegemony projects. A Syrian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We are explaining to everyone that peace depends above all on full and comprehensive withdrawal and that Israel's phased security agreements are nothing more than misleading ploys and ways of circumventing the Security Council resolutions.

The official added: Israel has dithered and procrastinated with all the Arab parties and requested peace treaties, normalization of relations, and opening of borders under the pretext of building up trust but refused to withdraw from the occupied territories or to commit itself to such withdrawal.

The Syrian official said that what Israel wanted was not a genuine Palestinian autonomy or authority but a group that obeys its orders, carries out its instructions, and participates in repressing the Palestinian people in the same way that the mercenaries of Antoine Lahd (South Lebanese Army) act against the Lebanese people and their towns and villages.

Referring to the Lebanese front, the Syrian official said that Israel threatened to use force if the Lebanese Army tried advance to the front lines, foiled every initiative by the Lebanese Government for the implementation of Security Council resolution 425, continuously committed aggression against the south, carried out terrorist operations deep into Lebanese territory, and abducted Lebanese citizens from their homes as it did with Shaykh Mustafa al-Dirani on the pretext that he belonged to the Lebanese resistance. He added that Syria would not have been safe from Israeli aggressions had it been weak and vulnerable.

In conclusion, the Syrian official said: Israel wants feeble agreements that cannot survive and last but Syria does not accept that kind of logic.

Paper Reasserts Rejection of Calls for Secret Talks

JN3005082594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper TISHRIN asserts that Syria has participated in the peace process in response to a U.S. initiative stemming from specific bases and in exchange for a series of U.S. assurances on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, the land-for-peace principle, and the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts of the conflict.

TISHRIN notes that, from the very beginning, Syria insisted that the bases of the Madrid conference should be clear and unequivocal because it knows well that Israel rejects peace. Syria also knows about Israel's procrastination, falsification of facts, attempts to deceive world public opinion, and expression of intentions that are the opposite of its real intentions. Yet, even these former intentions were never shown throughout more than two and a half years of the Washington talks.

The paper adds: The United States made efforts and frequently sent its secretary of state to the region. However, the Israeli intransigence remained unchanged, and the Rabin government refused to withdraw from the Golan and other occupied territories, thus rejecting the implementation of the Security Council resolutions in this regard.

TISHRIN demands that the United States, which committed itself to playing the role of a full and fair partner, force Israel to commit itself to implementing the Security Council's resolutions, so that the entire Golan will return to Syria and the other occupied territories will return to their Arab owners. This is because it is in the interest of the United States and the international community that international law, the principles of justice, and the UN charters prevail and that national and human rights be respected everywhere.

The paper asserts that Syria continues to reject calls for secret talks, and that the Washington talks, which have continued since the Madrid conference, are the most ideal framework. Syria continues to declare its positions publicly, and the Syrian policy has only one face and one consistent position.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria can never be dragged into partial settlements. It does not bargain over the territories of Arab brethren, and will not sell out an iota of the pan-Arab soil.

'Different Tack' In Dealing With Rabin Advised

JN3105090794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Attempts To Buy Time and Prospects for Peace Process," AL-BA'TH writes: With the peace process deadlocked and continually coming up against Israeli intransigence, it is legitimate to ask about the lengths to which Yitzhaq Rabin will go in his procrastinating and temporizing tactics.

As the personal envoy of the Russian president continues his talks in the region about the peace process, there is talk that the American secretary of state will make a new Middle East tour by mid- June to break the logjam in the peace process and possibly to work out a date to restart the bilateral talks.

Israel's posture on the peace process is as negative and rejectionist as ever, and it continues to pursue separate and incomplete deals, thus locking Washington's and Moscow's efforts into a vicious circle.

Syria has made it clear over and over that it is committed to the principles and bases of the peace process as laid out by UN resolutions. Israel's recognition of its failure to promote a separate settlement with Lebanon, Syria, or Jordan is evidence that the peace process needs to proceed along the principles and bases on which it was launched.

It is vital that the way to deal with the equivocating and temporizing Rabin government be rethought. This is because neither the peace process nor the general state of affairs in the Middle East is advanced by Israel's tactics of buying time, AL-BA'TH concludes.

Press Notes 'Difference' in Stands on Peace

JN0206093594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial under the headline "The Responsibility for the Stalemate in the Peace Process," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: During his recent tour, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher must have noticed the difference between Syria's way of dealing with the peace process and that of Israel. Syria has accepted the bases of the peace process and was concerned about dealing with this process in both words and deeds. It has sincerely and faithfully cooperated with the U.S. Administration to make this process succeed. However, Israel's intransigence and the Rabin government's insistence on refusing to announce its acceptance of the bases of the peace process, particularly the full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of Golan in full, have brought the talks to a halt and obstructed efforts to reactivate them or push them forward.

In addition to this, the paper says it believes that the ones who have caused this stalemate in the peace process are the Israeli rulers because they seek to exploit the peace process in the interest of their schemes of bestowing legitimacy on the occupation, just as what has taken place in the implementation of the secret Oslo agreement, and to bring the peace process to a halt.

The paper stresses that Syria has been committed and will continue to be committed to the peace process. However, it rejects diktats, conditions, and blackmail.

The paper says: No one should expect Syria to relinquish any Arab rights or land, or to accept secret talks, because Syria, as President Hafiz al-Asad has said, has fought with honor and is negotiating with honor, and consequently, it will not do anything it is ashamed of when it holds negotiations for the sake of restoring its national soil and of achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Syria will continue to cooperate with any efforts to push the peace process forward in accordance with the bases agreed upon in the peace initiative and the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

Under the headline "The Real Progress," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: We cannot talk about pushing the peace process forward before Israel announces its commitment to the bases of the peace process and its readiness to fully withdraw from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and all the occupied Arab territories. Undoubtedly, the United States is exerting immense efforts to break what it calls the stalemate in the peace process. However, breaking the real stalemate cannot take place without having Israel give clear answers to the substantive questions posed by the essence of the peace process, represented by full withdrawal.

The paper notes: The Israeli rulers lack courage and do not abide by the international resolutions. The Israeli rulers have continued to ignore the requirements of a true peace in order to evade full withdrawal and to peddle partial and incomplete settlements that do not meet the conditions of a just and comprehensive peace. Neither do they respond to the requirements of implementing the international resolutions. These settlements encourage the Arabs to sign the writs of their capitulation similar to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which placed the Palestinian people under Israeli military siege and put Palestinian economic and political decision under the Israeli trusteeship. Thus, the region has continued to be a hotbed of tension and turmoil.

AL-THAWRAH says: Syria will continue to resist Israel's attempts even as it responds to every sincere effort to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding, the paper says: If Israel does not abide by the bases of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy, efforts will continue to be lost in a waste land.

Under the headline "Rabin Stresses Israel's Rejection of Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that he is not ready to withdraw from all Golan, or even to make a promise to withdraw, constitutes decisive proof of Israel's rejection of peace and its efforts to sabotage the U.S. initiative that was based on the land-for-peace formula, the implementation of the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, and the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts of the conflict.

TISHRIN adds: Rabin's rejection proves anew Israel's expansionist ambitions and aggressive schemes.

The paper notes that the UN Security Council resolutions speak about a comprehensive peace, and not about a partial withdrawal. The U.S. initiative does not include peace for part of the land, but peace-for-land.

The paper says: Israel understands peace its own way, not in accordance with the international rules. In other words, peace to Israel is expansion, occupation, devouring the occupied territories, and blackmailing the international community. Therefore, Rabin's stand does not surprise Syria.

The paper emphasizes that Syria will not relinquish its land or that of the Arabs. Neither will it compromise on its rights and sovereignty or be dragged into suspect agreements. Syria has openly called for achieving the peace of the brave, the peace of right and justice which eliminates occupation and aggression.

Concluding its article, TISHRIN holds Israel responsible for sabotaging the entire peace process and for bringing the region back to tension and turmoil.

Khaddam Receives Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister

JN0106134094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] At 1030 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, Jordanian deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, and the delegation accompanying him.

Dr. Salihah Sunqur, minister of higher education, and Ahmad al- 'Adayilah, Jordanian ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

The discussion dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Arab state of affairs, and bilateral relations.

Al-Asad Replaces Minister of Electricity

JN0106205794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] His excellency the president has issued a decree to the following effect:

Article 1: Minister of Electricity Engineer Kamil al-Baba shall be relieved of his post.

Article 2: This decree shall be published and shall be communicated to those concerned.

The president issued another decree to the following effect:

Article 1: Engineer Munib As'ad Sa'im al-Dahr shall be named minister of electricity.

Article 2: This decree shall be published and shall be communicated to those concerned.

Columnist Urges Government To Stabilize Prices

JN2705153394 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 9 May 94 p 4

["Spotlights" column by Salma Kamil: "How Do We Ensure Stability of Prices?"]

[Text] The minister of supply and internal trade has issued instructions to the Governorates of Damascus and the Damascus Rural Area to report and stamp out offenses whatever they may be and to intensify price control patrols in the markets in order to prevent retailers from swallowing up the new civil servants wage increase. The minister asked the chambers of commerce in Damascus and the Damascus Rural Area to hold a joint meeting to achieve this objective by enlightening retailers.

We believe that intensification of price control patrols alone will not be sufficient to cover the capital and the rural area, in view of their vast expanse and the huge number of retailers, As for enlightening retailers about the need to stick to official prices, this is something which can never be materialized. Prices increase or decrease according to the market forces of supply and demand, which apply to all commodities. The retailer will not stick to an official price list, even if there is one.

So what can the consumer do in the face of such a situation? Whoever follows the market movements will observe that there has already been a clear increase in prices since the wage increase. We know, for instance, that the Ministry of Supply has so far not announced any changes in the prices of commodities or services, other than domestic transportation fares between provinces. Still, the prices of many commodities have gone up and the citizen is being compelled to pay the price charged by the retailer.

The stability of market prices demands government intervention through its commercial network and public

sector companies in order to provide a suitable package of commodities for the citizens at prices which can complete with market retail prices. We believe that the government has companies which produce all kinds of commodities. It also has a sufficient number of sales outlets and consumer cooperatives which can ensure the stability of market prices. When the private sector discovers that the commodities it is selling are offered by consumer cooperatives at cheaper prices, it will be compelled to charge a price closer to that of the cooperatives. Therefore, the solution does not just lie in suppressing retailers who sell at higher prices by intensifying price control patrols, which will not be able to control everyone no matter how hard they try, but also in the intervention by the government and the numerous productive public sector companies by providing a package of commodities acceptable in quality and price. This is the most effective way to achieve price stability in the short and long term. This way, we will be able to achieve two objectives at the same time: Introducing the production of public sector companies on the one hand, and ensuring commodities for citizens on the other.

Damascus To Establish Relations With South Africa

JN0106134394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and South Africa have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. The decision fulfills a shared desire to boost bilateral friendship and cooperation.

Afghanistan

Cease-Fire in Force in Western Sections of Kabul

LD3105173594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 May 94

[Text]In order to prevent the possibility of future clashes in the western sections of Kabul city, a peace delegation consisting of representatives from the Islamic State of Afghanistan and representative from the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Unity Party of Afghanistan] have decided to implement a total cease-fire as from today in the western sections of Kabul city. The commission supervising cease-fire is to control the cease-fire and make sure that the roads leading to the western sections of Kabul city are open. The agreement says that the transgressors will be questioned and punished. Quoting eye-witnesses, the Bakhtar Information Agency correspondent reports that the enforced cease-fire is being fully observed today and the roads leading to western section of Kabul are open to traffic and people. The people continue to commute unimpeded.

President Rabbani Calls For Establishing Shura

LD0106222794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1618 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Address by Afghanistan President Bornahoddin Rabbani at session of Peace and Islamic Brotherhood Front in Kabul on 1 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Esteemed brothers, esteemed president of the Peace and Islamic Brotherhood Front, and others in the audience: The peace and blessing of God be upon you. I am very happy to take part in your session today. (?You have opened) your session as usual; from the beginning, since the formation of the Peace and Islamic Brotherhood Front, you have been working hard for the restoration of security, prevention of disturbances and clashes, and for the consolidation of peace in our beloved Islamic country, Afghanistan.

You have again opened this grand session with this sacred aspiration [passage indistinct]. Under the present circumstances yet again we need more action and more efforts, especially from our brothers and our esteemed ulema—those who are aware and have honest feelings in particular under the present circumstances. We must take faster steps along the road for the restoration of peace and security and increase our efforts and action. In regard to the current situation and solution of the problems, I would like to raise a number of issues with you, esteemed brothers [passage indistinct].

Of course you are aware of the political and military situation of your country. You know why the fighting flared up? Where was the problem? What were the causes of the clashes and destruction? I have said time and again, and I emphasize again that the Islamic government which is in charge now has not grasped power through a military coup and has not usurped sovereignty by conspiracy. You know yourself that a number of decisions were made prior to the collapse of the previous regime in Afghanistan. Decisions were made by the esteemed leaders, a number of whom are with us in the present difficulties. A number of them as onlookers see the events from far away and a number of them are standing in the trench of hostility against the Islamic state and their own people and they put Kabul city and other regions under their cruel attacks and embark on conspiracies, coups and anti-Islamic and anti-national actions. [passage omitted]

For elections to take place as soon as possible—we are ready for the election to be held. The settlement that was reached in Peshawar and various settlements that have been reached [words indistinct] that elections should be held on the basis of the formation of a new council to make a decision on changing political leadership in Afghanistan. At the moment the unanimous decision of all—in all those agreements and in all of their undertakings—is for another council to be convened in order that this council can reach a settlement about the future [words indistinct]. Here we have some options: One is that some people who say that they do not want to convene a council and make no undertaking want six or nine people to sit together and form another government—form a transitional government for a short time. And after that—after a transitional government is formed another council is to be formed. The reality is that their goal is not the formation of a transitional government. It is to create a vacuum or an inertia, to have a situation come about that the present administration—before such a council is convened that has the power of decisionmaking, with all issues be submitted to it, and it should represent the whole of Afghanistan—the regime is dismantled before such a council is convened [words indistinct] [sentence as heard].

Two or three brothers of ours are not even prepared to come inside Afghanistan and sit together. Do they want to set up this session outside Afghanistan or do they want to hold it along the border? (?Do they care) that Kabul will again be put under the rain of rockets? The elements that are lying in wait will again cause disorder and embark on plunder and new clashes. (?They do not think of this) but only aim to disrupt the situation, and whatever happens in the future let it happen; no one will be there to take the responsibility. There will be no shura [parliament], no government, or any center of decisionmaking, nothing, only an imaginary condition and illusory situation. A government of transition; what can a government of transition do? A government formed through the Hal-wa Haqd Shura [constituent council] and a government which is formed by their participation, they do not accept this government. It is not clear how this transitional government will be formed, [words indistinct] who will be in this transitional government and for how long. As far as we see, such decisions undermine the nation and make them a ground for dangerous games [words indistinct].

You are all witness to the fact that (?most of the countries), even some countries unfortunately in the east [words indistinct], are those who really do not want stability in our country. They do not want Afghanistan as a powerful, independent, and Islamic country. Nevertheless, the decision must be made by our people: What advice do they give and what decision do they make? What should we do? What kind of climate is to be created so that we can get rid of this situation? This decision to set up a shura is the decision of those leaders to which they are now disagreeing; all agree to the setting up of a shura. But why are they not now agreeing to the setting up of this shura; perhaps they say that the government might influence it; that is to say that government might select their own chosen people [words indistinct]. Such a belief is in fact an insult against the people of Afghanistan [words indistinct].

I am prepared for solving their problem, and I believe that the government should not interfere in the setting up of a shura and should choose a neutral position. Representatives can be chosen from among peace delegations, representatives from formations or alternatively no representatives should be allowed from formations for preventing struggles and conflicts. Let the peace delegations [words indistinct] and also representatives from those provinces that have jihadi councils, their representatives should take part. From among this collection, a gathering of fully neutral individuals can come into being. This neutral collective should draft regulations for the setting up of a shura and convene the shura. When the shura is gathered then the government's responsibility [words indistinct] should be handed over to this shura as a center of power. The shura will have the power to choose the future leadership of Afghanistan and take whatever decision they wish. The decision of the shura should be respected. We must respect their decision. Is it better to let six or seven people sit together far away from the country and decide about the country or let a thousand or thousand-and-a-half representatives of the people to render such a decision [passage indistinct].

Nevertheless, I believe that a way should be sought by the people themselves to get rid of this situation; a decision must be taken by the representatives of the people. You, esteemed ulema and the brothers who are present here and the rest of our brothers must consult with each other about the future of our country and render a decision representing the will of the people. You should render a decision before our country's difficulties increase. The government is at your disposal, advise it [passage indistinct].

India

Prithvi Missile Test Slated Between 4-6 Jun

BK0206113294 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 May 94 p 15

[Text] Balasore—India's indigenous surface-to-surface missile Prithvi will be test fired at the interim test range at Chandipur-on-the-sea between June 4 and 6, reports UNI. An official notification was issued here for the usual temporary shifting of the population around the range to nearby shelters. Scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have already started arriving here.

BJP Criticizes Wisner Comments on Missile Tests

BK2905074794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has reiterated that the country should be firm in its stand on the Prithvi missile test. The party spokesman, Mr. K.L. Sharma, said in New Delhi today that there should be no question of shelving the test. Referring to some reported remarks by the U.S. ambassador-designate to India, Mr. Frank Wisner, Mr. Sharma accused the United States of adopting double standards. He said while the American Government helped Britain in carrying out its Trident missile test, it is opposing India's Prithvi tests.

Experts View Dome Failure at Nuclear Power Plant

BK0106140994 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 30 May 94 p 7

[Text] Kaiga, May 29 (PTI)—Experts investigating the dome failure of the atomic plant here have described as "primature and highly regretable" [quote as published] last week's announcement by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) that the incident was caused by alteration of construction procedure of site without approval.

"As of now, we have not unearthed evidence of any lapse in construction practice at site and we are surprised how AERB came to this conclusion," chairman of the six-member expert committee, Mr. C. H. Surendar, told a visiting reporter.

He said that all documents obtained by the committee showed that each stage of construction of the dome had "the approval of the STUPP consultants who supplied the design" and that the contractor, Larsen and Toubro [L and T], had meticulously followed the procedures.

Some committee members said the hasty pronouncement by the AERB and subsequent "uninformed doomsday editorials" in newspapers caused a setback to the investigation that will take at least two months to pin-point the cause of the dome collapse and suggest remedial measures.

Nuclear Power Corporation Managing Director S. K. Chatterjee said over the phone that AERB's "conjecture" at this stage was "least expected" and assured that the Kaiga project will not suffer any delay and that the incident "is no cause for concern about safety."

Chief executive of STUPP Consultants are already in France for discussions with the parent company and Mr S.M. Pradhan, an engineer of the L and T described AERB's verdict as "outrageous".

DESIGN FAILURE: Without wanting to be drawn into a controversy, Kaiga project director Mr. Paramahamsa Tewari said he totally "ruled out any deficiency in construction procedures, quality control and on-site supervision." He said the cause of dome failure lay elsewhere, probably in the design which the AERB had approved.

Mr. Tewari said if materials used were sub-standard, the entire dome would have collapsed, which was not the case.

During the past two days, the committee examined all the records pertaining to construction methods and quality control practices and also identified the places from where to take samples of concrete for analysis.

"We are looking at everything, including possible defect in the design of the pre-stressed dome," Mr. Surendar said before his departure. The calculations of the STUPP Consultants will be rechecked and the behaviour of the dome—until it failed—will be simulated in a computer to find out what exactly went wrong.

To a question whether there could be a release of radioactivity if the dome had failed after the Kaiga plant had been commissioned, Mr. Surendar said there should be no such fear since "a fully pre-stressed dome cannot collapse". The incident in Kaiga happened when pre-stressing was partial.

Enquiries at the site revealed that chunks of concrete from the under-side of inner containment dome came tumbling down from a height of 40 metres at 11:40 a.m. and again at 12:40 p.m. on May 13.

The dome had used up 1300 tonnes of concrete and only eight percent of its (104 tonnes) had come down from 15 percent of the area and not 40 percent as reported by AERB, the experts said.

According to AERB, the dome collapsed because concrete was poured at different times instead of in "one go" giving rise to three "radial" joints not in the original design. AERB also alleged that the dome was pre-stressed by tensioning cables in a sequence different from the one suggested by STUPP consultations.

On the other hand, the expert committee has found that the tensioning sequence had not been altered and "the concrete pours had been done with the approval of the designers."

Contrary to the AERB's assertion that the radial joints led to dome collapse, the project engineer pointed out that no concrete had peeled off the joints that were still intact.

FIRST INCIDENT: Although it is the first incident of its kind in India pre-stressed domes under construction had failed at least in two place in the United States, according to Mr. Surendar.

Beginning with the Madras atomic plant, all nuclear power reactors in India have been using pre-stressed structures for containment. The one under construction in Kaiga was the fifth pre-stressed dome designed by the same consultant.

Mr. Surendar said that Kaiga dome was slightly different from others in the sense it provided four holes of 4.2 metres diameter each for lowering steam generators and taking them out to facilitate servicing and repairs. He, however, ruled out any connection between provision of these holes and the dome collapse.

The only other difference is that while the Madras dome was designed to withstand an internal pressure of only 16 pound per square inch, the Kaiga dome was designed for 25 pounds. This necessitated the use of very high tensional force (280 tonnes per square centimetre) on the cables used for pre-stressing the concrete. The force used for pre-stressing Madras dome was about 40 tonnes per square cm.

Iran

Syrian Plans To Sign Peace Treaty 'Grave Mistake'

PM0106161294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jun 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iran Understands Syria's Motives for Negotiating With Israel"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed sources in Tehran emphasized yesterday that Syria has informed Iran of its intention to enter into "fundamental negotiations that could lead to a peaceful settlement with Israel."

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Nateq-Nuri, who was reelected yesterday as speaker of the Iranian Majles, said that his country has been informed of Syria's plans in this connection, "and we know the motive behind its choice of this course." Nuri pointed out that signing a peace treaty with Israel would be a "grave mistake" by Syria and could "harm its reputation." However, he stressed that that "would not lead to the severance of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Damascus."

Analysts describe Nateq-Nuri's remarks about the Syrian position as the beginning of a marked transformation in Iranian policy. [passage omitted]

Israeli Operations, Security Council Stance Condemned

LD0206113194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1007 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Aggressive air raids of the Zionist fighter planes on suburbs of Ba'lbak and one of the Hezbollah centres in the eastern region of Lebanon have left about 100 casualties so far. Political analysts believe that the Zionist regime's impudence in the attack on Lebanon, which is contrary to all the international conventions, is the natural outcome of the UN Security Council's double-dealing in the face of this regime's repeated acts of aggression. Thanks to U.S. support for Tel-Aviv, the Security Council, which is supposed to maintain international security, either ignores criminal acts of the Zionist regime or releases a vague and ineffective resolution.

Several days ago the Zionist regime, within the framework of its hostile behavior against the regional countries, abducted a leader of the Believers Resistance Group from his residence and took him to the occupied territories. Continuation of these acts of aggression proves the point that, contrary to its peace-seeking slogans, the Zionist regime's criminal behavior remains. Neither is the Zionist regime's claim that it launched an attack on the Hezbollah center in retaliation for jihad operations by the Islamic resistance combatants acceptable under any logic: The Zionist regime has occupied some part of the Lebanese territory, and the Lebanese people enjoy the legitimate right, in accordance with international regulations, to fight for the liberation of their occupied territories, whereas the Zionist regime is forbidden from retaliation even if it is attacked in Lebanon.

It is obvious that the renewed silence of the Security Council vis-a-vis today's aggression of the Zionist regime, which brought death and destruction to another group of Lebanon's innocent people, once again proves the fact to the people of the world that the existing international system, comprising the UN as a major part of the system, is incapable of defending nations, thanks to the bullying structure of the system. The system is incapable of bringing real peace and security to every corner of the world.

Spokesman Elaborates Stance on Abu Musa Islands

LD0206082394 Tehran IRNA in English 0741 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 2, (IRNA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman here Thursday [2 June] reiterated Iran's policy of establishing friendly ties with the Persian Gulf states and said the country is ready to hold direct and bilateral talks with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to eliminate the existing misunderstandings.

The spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi, was referring to the recent statements by the UAE Crown Prince Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan who has called for the establishment of friendly ties with Tehran but asked Iran to give up the three islands of Abu Musa, the Lesser and the Greater Tonbs.

Mohammadi further added that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the security and stability of the region.

He stressed that Iran had always tried to maintain security and stability in the region and under critical conditions had even welcomed cooperation of other countries in thwarting threats against the collective regional interests.

The spokesman said that Shaykh Khalifah's statements regarding the three Iranian islands were in contradiction with the UAE's call for the establishment of friendly ties with Iran.

Mohammadi termed as incorrect the report aired by Agence France Presse (AFP) on the meeting between the Iranian and Egyptian Foreign ministers in the course of the on-going Non-alignment Movement [NAM] ministerial session, convened in Cairo Tuesday.

AFP had reported that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa had expressed willingness to confer with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati and quoted Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that Velayati would not meet any Egyptian official.

He said that to meet with foreign ministers of other countries at multilateral sessions and holding talks with them is quite customary.

Stressing that Iran and Egypt are two influential members of the movement, the spokesman said that during the NAM meeting the two foreign ministers can discuss major issues such as situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, disarmament and restructuring of the U.N. organization.

Nuri Criticizes Riyadh Over Islands Dispute

LD0106125994 Tehran IRNA in English 1134 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 1, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri on Wednesday strongly criticized the Saudi Government for its position towards Iran, accusing it of complicity in various troubles in the region especially in Yemeni crisis.

The Majles speaker also charged the Riyadh government with inciting Iran's neighboring countries against Tehran under the pretext of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf.

The three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Lesser Tunb and Greater Tunb are of great importance to the people and government of the Islamic Republic, he said.

"A nation who has defended its territory by dedicating thousands of martyrs, will never back down on the issue and such mischievous acts are undoubtedly not in the interest of Saudi Arabia and other regional governments," Nateq-Nuri said at the Majles.

It is not the first time that Saudi Arabia, because of its wrong and illogical prejudices has taken position against Iran, he said, adding that already Riyadh had taken the side of Iraq during its 8 year war against Iran.

Commenting on the civil war and fratricide in Afghanistan, the speaker said the conflict there had no justification but incited by hegemonism and carnal desires.

He called on all the warring sides in Afghanistan to quit hegemonism and try instead to unite and rebuild their war-torn country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri instructed the Foreign Ministry to follow up the issue of Afghanistan and do its best to end the ongoing war and fratricide in that country.

Elsewhere in his speech, the speaker lashed out at international circles particularly the U.N. and its secretary general for their silence on Israel's recent kidnapping of Mustafa Dirani from his home in Lebanon.

Saudi 'Discordant' Acts During Hajj Criticized

NC3105102794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 31 May 94

[Commentary prepared by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] A large number of our country's pilgrims have returned to Iran during the past few days after their pilgrimage to the house of God. Even though our countries' pilgrims were not allowed by the Saudi regime to carry out their political-religious ceremony of the disavowal of pagans, their self-restraint and the meaningless silence of the pilgrims from Iran and the other Islamic countries were the best ways to awaken the Muslims of the world.

Saudi Arabia's prevention of the Ibrahimite ceremony of the disavowal of pagans and the silence that spread during the Hajj ceremonies because of it will undoubtedly have their impact. The non-Iranian pilgrims will ask themselves the reason for the police atmosphere that ruled the ceremonies and the policy of intimidating the pilgrims.

Despite the claim that it would not disrupt the pilgrims' programs, the Saudi Government did create problems. After returning to Tehran, the representative of the supreme leader and the head of the Iranian pilgrims referred to the siege on his mission and stated that this act by Saudi Arabia upset the performance of the Hajj rites by the pilgrims. He added that members of the mission were even prevented from entering Medina, contrary to the agreement that had been reached.

The unfavorable atmosphere that upset the Hajj ceremonies shows the weakness of the Saudi Government in managing the holy shrines, and the news about this will undoubtedly not have good consequences for the unfit custodian of the house of God. The message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia during this year's Hajj and his unity-breaking remarks put an end to many doubts and revealed the face of the major mentors of this regime, who undoubtedly have a long record of plotting against the Muslims in the region and in the world of Islam.

With the exposure of this behavior, the world of Islam will ask itself whose hands the house of God is in and what meaning this resistance against religious-political ceremonies and the expression of disgust toward America and Israel will have. In other words, the irresponsible acts by the Saudi Government further disgraces those who have diverted from the true path in Islamic society and doubles the brightness of the front of justice. The repercussions that the obstructionist acts by the Saudi police will have will not be very favorable, even in Saudi society, and everyone will realize why the Saudi regime feared the disavowal of pagans ceremony.

In view of regional developments and the compromise trend in the Middle East, Islamic nations are facing more serious threats and plots that will not only hold the perpetrators of discordant acts answerable to history but will also list their acts among the Muslims of the world as contrary to Islamic interests.

Spokesman Explains Expulsion of British Diplomat

LD0106174394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] A spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry announced today that the first secretary—the second-ranking official of the British Embassy in Tehran—must leave Iran within a month because of actions and behavior contrary to diplomatic principles and contact with terrorist groups opposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Denying a claim by the British Foreign Office on the distribution of forged documents by an Iranian diplomat regarding British activities and stance on Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said: British policies on events in Bosnian-Herzegovina are so obvious that there is no need to divulge them to international public opinion and the world's Muslims.

He added: British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg's views and the raising of groundless allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran come at a time when known international terrorists—such as the Hypocrites [Mojahedin Khalq Organization]—while being active in Britain, make use of that country's facilities and resources for the propagation of terrorism.

Concluding, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: It is a source of great regret that Britain embarked on installing listening devices in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy contrary to international law, and in response to its illegal act resorts to the reiteration of its futile allegations against Iran.

UK Says Expulsion 'Unjustified'

LD0106141694 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] London, June 1, IRNA—The Foreign Office confirmed Wednesday [1 June] that its deputy head at its embassy in Tehran had been expelled in retaliation for last week's expulsion of an Iranian first secretary from London.

A spokesman claimed that the removal of Hamish Cowell was "totally unjustified." At the same time, he tried to defend the feeble excuse for Britain's unilateral action when ordering Vahid Bolurchi to leave last Thursday.

The official reason for the expulsion of the Iranian first secretary was said to be because of attempts by embassy staff to distribute "forged documents" about the UK's anti-Muslim policy in Bosnia, which is universally known.

The raising of such an excuse shows British sensitivity about its failed policy, which frequently comes under attack from the Bosnian Government itself for the way in which London is attempting to impose a settlement by rewarding the Serb aggressors.

The Foreign Office spokesman maintained it wished to keep quiet its initial provocative move against Iran in the hope of limiting publicity, but the real motive may be more associated with trying to hide the embarrassment of a bug being found in the Iranian Embassy.

Britain's strained relations with Iran have been dominated by a history of tit-for-tat exchanges that have always proved a fruitless ploy for the UK. At one stage prior to Tehran severing ties in 1989, representation was reduced to only a mission head.

The new expulsions cut the current number of diplomats to 14 and indications are in the present climate they may not end there with a number of Iranian parliamentarians already calling for relations with Britain to be reviewed.

Khamene'i Addresses Meeting of Majles Deputies

LD0106162294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1018 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at a meeting of Majles deputies marking the anniversary of the formation of the Majles; in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I welcome you warmly, dear brothers and sisters. We are pleased that another year has passed since the formation of our honorable Islamic Majles. [passage omitted]

What I deem necessary to mention at this juncture is that the slightest issue that might give hope to the enemy should not emerge from the centers of responsibility. We have nothing to do with irresponsible individuals. The government and Majles should work shoulder to shoulder. The Majles should be a source of help for the government. This is not a new idea. It has been like this for centuries. If the people's deputies do not render assistance to the governments, the governments are unable to carry out their work. The Majles is a legislative center. The power of restraint is in the hands of the Majles. The Majles has its foot on the brakes too. If a government moves and you put your foot on the brake, it cannot move. If the Majles were to neglect to direct the government, no good result would be gained. Directing should be carried out. Attention should always be paid to the issue of independence and sense of responsibility and bravery. But a situation should not arise in which a conflict may be felt between the government and the Majles, lest one should think that there is conflict between these two. Today, too, thanks be to God, is not like that. Of course the enemy may magnify any small matter tenfold, sometimes a hundredfold. However, praise be to God, the Majles supports the government and the government too works toward the legislative process of the Majles. The running of the country is a difficult task. [passage omitted]

Of course one should never defend mistakes that mainly take place in the second and third ranks of the government. No one should defend them. If someone makes a mistake, it should be pointed out to him. Thanks be to God, our president is a knowledgeable scholar, is aware of changing times, and is in control of the running of the country. Among all the people that are known to us, he has exceptional capabilities. He pays attention to all the affairs and the suggestions of the deputies will assist him too. You can make use of the instruments that the law has put in your hands, such as points of order, questions, and so on. You have these resources too. The most important instrument is the legislation, which guides the government on which directions to take, and the government has an obligation to obey. You can prevent mistakes by this means completely.

Today the situation is very sensitive. Today it is the turn of one of the most difficult tasks—that is, the task of reconstruction. Destruction is much easier than construction. There is a difference between destroying a building that is collapsing and constructing a straight and powerful building. The first takes two days and the second might not be finished in two years.

It is a difficult time, difficult work. The foreign enemies are serious in their hostility too. You only observe a corner of their animosity in their propaganda. The

esteemed deputies might of course have access to secret reports. Therefore, you see how much the enemy is trying to prevent the Islamic Republic from realizing its set aspirations. Under such circumstances, thanks be to God, we have this Majles that is alive, religious, committed, aware, familiar with its duty, and courageous; we have this capable and authoritative government; and we have this experienced president who has shown his presence in all the arenas. This is a good basis for work. We should go forward with speed and power, God willing. Nothing should prevent us from undertaking correct action. [passage omitted]

I hope that all the brothers and sisters will be successful. I hope that the esteemed speaker of the Majles—thanks be to God that the same shining face has been appointed—and other esteemed deputies who have responsibilities within the Majles will be successful. God will award you further successes. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Criticizes Religion-State Separation Stance

LD0206110694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Thousands of Iranian and foreign pilgrims to the blessed shrine of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, this morning met the Vali-e Amr of Muslims, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

In this meeting, the eminent leader made a speech and said: In the most sonorous way, Imam Khomeyni put forward for the people of the world the issue of managing the affairs of life on the basis of the sovereignty of Islam and the fusion of religion and politics. The rejuvenation of this Islamic concept is the greatest lesson of the blessed life of the esteemed Imam. [passage omitted]

The eminent leader condemned the step by the pseudo-clerics of the royal court [darbar] toward reiterating the utterances concerning the need to separate religion from politics. He said that such moves constitute a slander against the lofty religion of Islam. He added: By Imam Khomeyni's efforts, resilience, and insight, today Islam has become a political entity in the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, the West, and worse still a group of the pseudo-clerics and the royal court-affiliated clergy in God's holy shrine [Mecca] utter slander and calumny against God's religion. They claim that religion and politics are two separate entities. We are sorry that a number of leaders, kings, and statesmen of the Islamic world have joined ranks with the enemies of Islam.

His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i considers Hajj as a stage for the presence of world Muslims, and as a forum that is to benefit the Islamic ummah. He said: The Almighty has decreed that declaration of disavowal of infidels should take place in the course of Hajj. This is because Hajj is a forum for the declaration of disavowal by Muslims. [sentence as heard]. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that the various brands of propaganda waged by Western governments against the Islamic Republic of Iran are all contrary to reality. He said: The antagonism and contempt of the colonialist powers against the Islamic Iran is rooted in the antagonism of the colonialists against the sovereignty of Islam. However, despite all the contempt, the government, officials, and the people of Iran are standing firm, with all their might, behind the sovereignty of God's religion and the implementation of divine strictures.

Information Minister on Arrests in Tehran Bombing

LD0106220094 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 1, IRNA—Minister of Information Hojjat-ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahiyan said here today that security forces have identified and arrested the elements behind the recent bombing in Tehran.

Speaking at a press conference, he said Iraqi intelligence agents were directly involved in the bombing and two Iraqi officers, Abdul-Amir 'Ali and Raad Mostafa Fattah have been arrested who have admitted their terrorist actions.

He said the Iraqi regime has directly assigned its intelligence officers to plant bombs in Iranian large cities since last February after being disappointed with its internal agents in Iran.

Hojjat-ol-Eslam Fallahiyan said that Iraqi intelligence officers had carried 22 bombs, mostly magnetic into Iran, adding that 14 bombs had been seized by police. He said the terrorists exploded 4 bombs in the streets and investigations are underway to detect the others. Evidences indicate that the terrorists may have destroyed the other four bombs, he said.

Six internal elements nammed Shakour Rostami, Havas Azizi, Ali Behruzi, Ahmad Asghari, Davoud Jaafar and Nejad Faissal who were in contact with the Iraqi intelligence officers are now under arrest and have confessed to their charges.

The information minister showed a video-tape to reporters showing the confessions of the Iraqi intelligence officers and their internal elements in Iran.

On Iraq's objectives behind the terrorist actions, Fallahiyan said the Iraqi regime and the counterrevolutionary grouplets were trying to carry out explosions in Iran and attribute them to internal issues and pretend that the people were against the ruling system.

Asked about the Iranians living abroad, he said, "We welcome the return of our fellow-countrymen, but there is no compulsion in this regard."

The majority of those who live abroad have no special problem and travel freely, but, he said, those who have legal problems should refer to the judiciary.

About Saeedi Sirjani (a writer), he said he had been arrested for addiction and drug smuggling, but further inve stigations showed that he had cooperation with Savak (former regime's secret police).

He has been a drug addict for a long time, so it is natural that the addiction would lead him to some ethical weaknesses.

Saeedi Sirjani has had links with the western intelligence services as well and the matter will be disclosed after completion of the investigations, he said.

About the bugging of the Iranian embassy in London by the intelligence service of the United Kingdom, he said the information ministry had already received reports on the issue which was announced after official confirmation.

He said all the dimensions of the bugging of the Iranian embassy in London had not been disclosed yet due to security reasons.

He regretted that the UK government regarded the blatant violation of the international law in the embassy case as a matter of normalcy.

Asked about Iran-Turkey security relations, and the propaganda campaign of Turkish media on the alleged Iranian interference in internal affairs of that country, he said contacts between the officials of the two countries showed that Iran has not intervened in their domestice affairs and will not do so.

* Report on Military Budgets, Subsidies

94LA0168B Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 12 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] By cutting more than 15 percent of the revenues and expenditures recommended by the government, the Majles has approved the 1373 [21 March 1994- 20 March 1995] budget bill. Most of the government's current and general expenses have been reduced compared to the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]. The defense budget was the only section whose increase the Majles did not oppose, increasing it by $850 million to $1.4 billion while decreasing food subsidies from $1.2 billion to $800 million.

The first effect of the approved budget came before the beginning of the new year. The "Railroad of the Islamic Republic" increased by 30 to 50 percent ticket prices for various passenger trains during the New Year's holidays on the pretext of the "cutoff in government aid and subsidies." Then in the first days of the new year it announced that the new ticket prices would be permanent.

Central Bank Governor on New Import Regulations

LD2905082594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 May 94

[Interview with Iranian Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli by unidentified correspondent on 28 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear viewers, as you heard in the bulletin, following the announcement of the new decisions taken by the committee for the regulation of the foreign exchange market—which were adopted with the aim of limiting demand for foreign exchange and controlling exchange rate fluctuations—Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, the governor of the Central Bank, took part in an exclusive interview with our reporter this evening. We end this bulletin with this interview. Good night and may God keep.

[Correspondent] Please be so kind as to tell us about the reasons behind the new decisions, announced last night, adopted by Article Three, Clause 29 committee. [sentence as heard]

['Adeli] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In view of the new possibilities established after the negotiations that we carried out with our foreign commercial partners, and in view of the fact that the banking system will be able to open letters of credit, and the fact that the new letters of credit issued during 1373 [beginning 21 March 94] will be paid at the appropriate time—and, again, in view of the fact that we were also finding that some importers were turning to the open market for foreign exchange and that this was leading to an increase in the exchange rate, we came to the conclusion that there was no longer any reason why—bearing in mind the new possibilities—we should allow open market transactions to raise the exchange rate. A new decision was therefore adopted, according to which all importers will be able to carry out their work in the normal way, that is, via the banking system.

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Adeli, what difference, on the whole, is there between these new decisions and the previous ones?

['Adeli] In fact, the new decisions represent no changes from the previous ones; it is rather the case that they are in line with previous decisions, where the idea was that we should limit demand on the open market for foreign exchange. These new decisions are in keeping with that idea and, with these decisions, a number of new ways have been foreseen for limiting demand on the open market for foreign exchange. The new decisions have two aspects: First, from now on all foreign exchange transactions relating to imports into the country will take place exclusively via the banking system and no one will be allowed to go to the open market for their foreign exchange. This is in line with the general policy that the government has been following during recent months; that is, limiting demand on the foreign exchange market.

The second aspect relates to the question of imports in exchange for exports. Previously, this existed in a formal sense only and, in reality, it was enough for an importer to purchase an authorization for exports and then go to the open market himself and buy foreign exchange. From now on, this process will be ruled out and an importer will now either have to purchase his foreign exchange from the banking system or he must buy actual foreign exchange from an exporter; that is, as long as an exporter's foreign exchange has not entered into the banking system, the exporter will not be allowed to sell it. In other words, the previous deposit slips that were bought and sold before can only be sold now along with the actual foreign exchange—it will be actual foreign exchange that is bought and sold. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] One of the points referred to in the recent announcement of the new decisions was the issue of controlling foreign exchange rate fluctuations. To what extent do you think the new decisions will succeed in keeping the foreign exchange rate under control?

['Adeli] It seems to us that importers who previously purchased foreign exchange on the market in order to send it abroad will, henceforth, be prevented from carrying out their transactions, because, if they buy foreign exchange on the open market, their imported goods will not be cleared from customs. Second, it has been stated that if someone buys foreign exchange on the open market and sends it abroad, that will be viewed as smuggling. In other words, sending foreign exchange abroad other than via the banking system is henceforth forbidden. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We have had some talks with foreign parties about rescheduling agreements. Will this prove useful and effective in this process?

['Adeli] Fundamentally, one of the reasons behind the new decisions was that our rescheduling negotiations, fortunately, proved successful. We have been able to obtain allowances for the payment of our debts. From 1 June of the Christian year, that is, in a few days from now, we will begin the first of a series of payments, which will amount to about 4.5 billion marks to German sellers. This has had a very good impact on banking relations with foreign countries. Some insurance establishments, such as Canadian insurance and Australian insurance and some others have announced that they will accept our letters of credit. This will, consequently prove to be a new opportunity, both for the country and for importers. God willing, they will be able to operate using the banking system. I think that these are the positive effects of what we have done.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Restrictions on Buying Hard Currency Imposed

NC2805144094 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 28 (AFP)—Iran on Saturday banned all importers from buying hard currency on the open market in a bid to cut demand for the dollar and halt the slide of the rial.

The new measure, which caps a series of efforts to curb imports, requires all foreign purchases to be ordered instead through the country's state banking system, the Central Bank said.

It also requires importers to register their orders at the Commerce Ministry and present a certificate of exchange from the banks before being able to release their goods from the customs office, it said.

In the past two months, the ministry has been authorizing the release of imported goods only if the owner deposited an equal amount of cash at the bank.

These restrictions, often costly and time-consuming, had so far applied only to state companies, while private importers could still turn to the open market for their hard currency.

The latest measure is designed to further tighten imports, which have dropped from 23 billion dollars in 1992 to seven billion dollars last year, according to official figures.

The restrictions on imports have been adopted to cut private demand for hard currency and enable the government to repay some 30 billion dollars in short and medium-term foreign debts.

The fall in imports also came as Iran's trade partners refused to honor Iranian letters of credit after the country came up with a payment arrears of some 13 billion dollars.

Iran has since managed to reschedule or refinance some seven billion dollars of its debts, but it will have to pay the trade partners from four to five billion dollars by the year 2000.

Tehran earned about 14 billion dollars in hard currency in 1993, mainly through oil sales, according to Western economic experts in Tehran.

Another aim of the new measure is to curb the activities of the open currency market, which is often blamed for the rial losing about 50 percent of its value against foreign currencies since November.

Several certificated money-changers in the capital have stopped their operations, with many others expected to follow suit.

Speaking to AFP on Saturday, one money-changer said the government was running the risk of creating a black market by cracking down on authorised dealers.

Foreign Debts Amount to $10 Billion

LD3005150294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 30 May 94

[Excerpts] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri has attended a gathering of seminarians, scholars, and teachers of Qom seminary at the Dar al-Shafa' school. [passage omitted]

Stressing the success of the fourth Majles, the speaker said: The government is dutybound, despite the reduction in the price of oil, to provide essential goods for the public and the foreign exchange required by manufacturing plants. That has increased high prices and inflation within society.

He announced that Iran's foreign debts amount to $10 billion. He said: They are loans obtained from other countries which were spent on infra-structural projects in the country.

Government Fiscal Policy, Foreign Debt Criticized

NC0106193094 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 22 May 94 p 2

[Commentary by 'Ali Feyz: "Foreign Debts"]

[Text] Remarks concerning foreign debts are so vague and sometimes so contradictory that a clear picture of what the situation is like cannot be obtained. Figures that have neither been officially confirmed nor refuted show that we have a foreign debt of about $30 billion and that officials believe that this amount is not so great as to spark any concerns, especially when the Central Bank has been so unprecedentedly successful—allegedly—in being able to arrange for the repayment of these loans in installments. And according to officials, all this has been achieved despite the obstructionism of America in its opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As to the interest rate on this debt and to what amount from the national wealth will ultimately be paid in interest is something nobody is ready to comment on. But judging from the nature of credit organizations or of Western companies, one can conclude that these installment payments will not be free of charge.

Nevertheless, the most interesting remarks on this came from Dr. Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli [Central Bank governor] who claimed that Iran's debts will be $18 billion by the year 2006. In order to better understand this point, we should first point out that it is now 1994 or, in other words, the last decade of the 20th century and that Mr. 'Adeli is therefore talking about 12 years from now or the first decade of the 21st century.

Of course there is no doubt that it is our problem that we do not understand which policies we should adopt in order to solve our debt problem. But, at any rate, policies are not that clear for the man in the street to understand. Thus, instead of considering the Central Bank governor's remarks that our foreign debts will be limited by the year 2006 as a promising sign, we see, on the contrary, that despite the previous promises by the officials who claimed that with the adoption of contraction policies, loans would be quickly repaid, we should not expect our debts to smooth out. If the Central Bank can truly limit the foreign debt to $18 billion as stated by Dr. 'Adeli, then the Iranian nation should be thankful. But what we are worried about is that the volume of debts will increase while our foreign exchange income will not reach a favorable level that will allow us to limit our debts, especially when it is not clear what interest will be added to these debts.

Another important point is that our foreign exchange policies are not based on comprehensive planning that covers the other sectors of the economy as well. And based on this, one cannot be very optimistic. Nevertheless, the bad experience that we have concerning foreign debts shows that this is an experience that should not be repeated. Explaining the reasons and answering the question on why we have foreign debts or even telling us that these expenditures were for infrastructure projects that will yield fruit in the future are not enough to convince the people why we should have amassed debts in the first place. Our culture, based on its history, considers borrowing—for whatever reason—a weakness, and it will not easily accept the fact that we have debts to repay.

At any rate, we will be lucky if our debts are limited to $18 billion until 2006 as has been stated by Mr. 'Adeli. But what we should be afraid of is that we gullibly sit back and not realize that an important part of our national income is being devoured by debts. Many of the countries that have debts today did not realize when they received the loans that one day they would be unable to repay them. Moreover, is it really wise for us to spend our replaceable national resources which are the backing for our world credibility for areas the returns of which are doubtful? The answers to these questions should be given by those who compile our country's fiscal policies. But, at any rate, these are the questions that exist, and we should not turn a deaf ear to them.

* Regime's New Efforts To Oust Brokers

94LA0168E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 11 May 94 p 11

[Text] Tehran, 15 Ordibehesht [5 May] IRNA—The Foreign Exchange Market Regulating Committee, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the republic, met and made new decisions about controlling the foreign exchange rate and the fight against brokers.

The public relations office of the office of the president of the republic reports that at this meeting the report on the latest changes having to do with solving the problem of Iran's suspended debts and the successes achieved was given to the president of the republic. In view of the nation's foreign exchange reserves, the decision was made that to fight the corruption of the brokers in the foreign exchange market and to stabilize the foreign

exchange rate, in addition to providing foreign exchange for goods that are obtained at the Foreign Exchange Bank's official rate, the banking system is also required to provide at a rate 50 rials [R] below the free market rate the foreign exchange needed by importers who have registered or are registering at the Ministry of Commerce to import in exchange for exports.

Likewise, the banking system will buy foreign exchange obtained from exports at the same rate, should the exporters so desire.

Following the decisions made at the meeting of the Foreign Exchange Market Regulation Committee, a statement was issued by the Central Bank.

According to this statement, all importers of goods who have obtained authorization to import in exchange for exports by registering orders at the Ministry of Commerce may go to a foreign exchange branch of the nation's commercial banks and submit their request to demand a draft or to open a confirmed letter of credit in the interest of the sellers.

When the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran receives the requests and their statistical registration, it will sell foreign exchange from the nation's banking system at R50 less than the going rates and will issue a draft or open a letter of credit. The rate of the foreign exchange for opening a confirmed letter of credit through the nation's banking system will remain fixed until the time of the exchange of shipping documents on the goods, and there will be no risk of foreign exchange rate fluctuations to the importers between the date of the opening of the letter of credit and the date of the exchange of the shipping documents for the goods.

The above procedures are exclusively for imports in exchange for exports, and for other groups of goods the banks are required as before to allocate foreign exchange at the R1,750 rate.

This statement was issued as a guideline to all banks and the banks are required to obtain the documents from applicants and to take the necessary steps.

The decision by the Foreign Exchange Market Regulation Committee was also presented to the Council of Ministers and it was decided that if any government institution or institution affiliated with the government goes to the free market to obtain foreign exchange, this will be regarded as illegal and the managers involved will be prosecuted.

Likewise, any kind of negligence or failure to perform by the banks during the process of allocating the foreign exchange will be regarded as cooperation with people who are undermining the nation's foreign exchange system.

Based on a decision by the Council of Ministers, all the managers of the foreign exchange branches of the commercial banks are required to expedite foreign exchange allocations, and government institutions and companies are forbidden from entering the free market for foreign exchange.

Nonbank Credit Institutions

At the meeting of the Council of Ministers a report was also presented by the chief of the Central Bank on how to create nonbank credit institutions and the regulations appropriate for them.

This report announced that the goal in creating these kinds of institutions is to complete the organization of the nation's financial system to make it more competent and to provide resources and allocate them for investment in various sectors.

Hasemi-Rafsanjani Opens Nuclear Reactor in Esfahan

LD0106195194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Esfahan this afternoon to meet the people and to open several economic and scientific projects. Here is a report from our colleagues in the Isfahan Center.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of our country, arrived in Isfahan this afternoon. [passage omitted]

During his visit, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani opened a miniature nuclear reactor at the Esfahan Atomic Center. This miniature reactor is equipped with a pneumatic system for sample transfer which facilitates the use of such applications as analysis by neutron excitation and production of radio isotopes. It is worth mentioning that the reactor is operating under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. [passage omitted]

* Final Construction on Bushehr Nuclear Plant Begins

94LA0166A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Tehran, 17 Farvardin [16 April]—Construction to complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant has begun after years of suspension, with the cooperation of Russian experts.

An informed official at the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant gave an interview to the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in which he announced the above. He said: Following the preliminary agreements made with the Russians in the last few months, construction to complete the first unit of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts of electrical power began early this year with a four-year schedule. Russian experts and specialists are now working on this power plant.

He added: So far 30,000 tons of essential parts for the power plant have been shipped into the country from Germany and are being properly stored in warehouses. At the same time, unfortunately about 7,000 tons of the power plant's essential parts, whose price has been paid and legally belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran, have been impounded in German ports.

Continuing, this informed official noted: Fortunately, 90 percent of the damage to the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant caused by the imposed war will be repaired by the capable hands of skilled domestic specialist manpower, and the rest will be repaired in the course of the plant's operation.

It is necessary to explain that the 5.8-billion-mark [DM] contract to build the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant was signed on 10 Tir 1355 [1 July 1976] between the Iran Atomic Energy Organization and the West German Kraft Werk Union Company. Based on this contract, the aforementioned company was required to build a nuclear electrical power plant consisting of two pressurized light water units, each with a thermal capacity of 3,715 thermic megawatts [MW] and an electrical capacity of 1,296 MW on an 18-km site in the southwestern part of the province of Bushehr. Of this amount, so far DM5.8 billion has been paid by Iran.

In addition to this, separate contracts have also been signed to procure the needed fuel and 200,000 cubic meters of drinking water for this complex, for which more than DM137 million and DM394,000 and $43 million, respectively, has been paid to Germany by the Iran Atomic Energy Organization.

Based on the same report, to implement these contracts so far about 85 percent of the construction on the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant has been completed, and about 65 percent of its mechanical, electrical, and other installations have been installed.

On the other hand, in KEYHAN-E HAVA'I's contact with the office of Engineer Mohsen Mehr 'Alizadeh, general manager of power plants for the Iran Atomic Energy Organization, it was announced that the full details of Iran's contract with the Russians to complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant will soon be announced.

Pakistan

Leghari on Foreign Investment, Nuclear Policy

BK0106145694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said, as a result of sound economic policies adopted by the present government, the climate for foreign investment in Pakistan has become lucrative. The president was addressing Pakistanis in New York. The president said the response of foreign investors to the government's incentive package has been very positive. As a result of macroeconomic management, foreign investment in several sectors—particularly in the sector of power generation—will increase in the days to come.

He said Pakistan's nuclear program is not weapon-oriented. We have taken a conscious decision not to use our nuclear capability for weapon production unless our security is threatened. The president said Pakistan has told the United States that no unilateral solution could be imposed on Pakistan. Any solution to the nonproliferation problem in South Asian region has to be evolved in the regional context. He said Pakistan had proposed in 1974 that the South Asian region be declared a nuclear-free zone. Since then, Pakistan has made six more concrete proposals to achieve nonproliferation in the region, but India has rejected all of them. Under the circumstances, the United States or the world at large could not expect realistically that Pakistan would accept any unilateral obligation.

Nawaz Sharif Accuses President of Misconduct

BK0106093094 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 1 Jun 94 pp 1,8

[By Umer Farooq]

[Text] Islamabad—The leader of the opposition, Mian Nawaz Sharif, has alleged that President Farooq Leghari received Rs. [rupees] 15 million from Mehran Bank for horse-trading both on the eve of general elections and the presidential election.

Nawaz Sharif levied the allegation at a press conference on Tuesday. He also produced the credit vouchers and the bank account numbers and the names of trading companies through which the payment was made to Farooq Leghari. At the press conference the bank pay order numbers and the photostat copies of Mehran Bank pay orders were also presented to the pressmen. "These are the unimpeachable evidence relating to Rs 15 millions taken out by President Farooq Leghari for horse-trading both on the eve of the general elections and the election of president of Pakistan", said Nawaz Sharif.

Earlier, the speaker, National Assembly, expunged the aspersions cast by the leader of the opposition on President Farooq Leghari on the floor of the House. The speaker told the leader of the opposition that under Article 248(b) of the Rules of Business of the National Assembly to aspersions on the person of the president could be made on the floor of National Assembly. [sentence as published]

However, the speaker received the documents of evidence produced by Nawaz Sharif in the House. Later, when in defiance of the ruling of the speaker Nawaz Sharif refused to sit down, the speaker suspended the proceedings of the assembly.

The leader of the opposition later addressed a press conference in the Parliament cafeteria and alleged that President Farooq Leghari had used his political clout for

gaining financial benefits. "The conduct of President Farooq Leghari be a cause of insult to the whole nation", he said.

He alleged that a few days before the presidential elections Farooq Leghari obtained Rs. 7600,000 from Sharae Fetima Jinnah branch of Mehran Bank Ltd, situated in Lahore. Six pay orders, numbering 003994 to 003999 for Rs. 1,250,000 each and totalling Rs 7,500,000 were obtained from Mehran Bank Ltd, Sharae Fatima Jinnah, Nawaz Sharif said.

He said that all the six trading companies through which Farooq Leghari had received money are fake and were operated by the notorious Yunus Habib. He said that according to latest reports of FIA [Federal Investigative Agency] all the six accounts that were debited to issue the said pay orders are fake benami [account in someone else's name] accounts maintained by Yunus Habib to rob the Mehran Bank. Nawaz Sharif also produced a list of fake companies prepared by FIA, which includes the names of trading companies through which Farooq Leghari received the money. The names include Moosani Tradino (Account number 8890-1), Rasco Enterprises (A/C No. 9954-1) International Traders (A/C No. 15237-1), Munir Corporation A/C No. 17787-1), Aziz International (A/C No. 177950-1) and Salim Corporation (A/C No. 17817-1).

All the six pay orders carry the following endorsement on their back in the handwriting of Sarder Farooq Leghari—"Please deposit in my Current Account No. 12025-1", Nawaz Sharif said and added that the pay orders are signed by Sardar Farooq Leghari himself. He said that these pay orders were credited in A/C No. 1202501 of Sardar Farooq Leghari at Muslim Commercial Bank, Lahore on Sept. 25, 93 through branch transfer voucher.

Nawaz Sharif told the press conference that on Nov. 6, 1993, Rs 7,500,000 were again obtained by Sardar Farooq Leghari for use in the presidential election. A set of six dubious transactions was reenacted. Debit advices of Rs 125,000 each were raised on the Mehran head office in Karachi and a total credit of Rs. 7,500,000 given in the account of Sardar Farooq Leghari. This amount was gradually withdrawn, he added.

Nawaz Sharif termed the way Mehran Bank was [word indistinct] by Farooq Leghari the "most shameful" as that had no precedent in the history of Pakistan. "The people who cover up their crimes are not more clever than the people who expose it", he said.

He said the speaker had set a very bad precedent by not allowing the leader of the opposition to speak on the floor of the House. "If similarly the leader of the house is also not allowed to speak in National Assembly, than what will be the utility of the Assembly", he said.

Returning to the president, he said that after the disclosure of such financial corruption on the part of the president, he should waste no time in resigning from his post. "We demand his resignation", he said. In response to a query, he said that opposition would decide whether to move an impeachment motion against the president.

Levelling another allegation against the president, he said that it was now a matter of record that Farooq Leghari when he was an opposition member of parliament, was constantly conspiring with a serving general Lt-Gen Asad Durrani to overthrow the legal and democratically elected government of PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)]. Because of this conspiracy, Lt. Gen. Asad Durrani was removed from service and retired, since this act was tantamount to undermining the army's discipline. "However, I wonder while one character of the plot was removed from service, the other character of the plot, Farooq Leghari was made the supreme commander of the armed forces," he said.

Enumerating other allegations against the president, he listed the following points: 1—Lavish [word indistinct] parties costing Rs. 6 millions. 2—He bought land worth Rs 1.6 milion at [word indistinct] Dilana and when the site was declared to be the location of an airport, he promptly sold it to the Civil Aviation Authority for 25 millions. 3—He has transformed the President's House into a personal recreational place with the building of a riding track, a stable, a golf course, a shooting range etc. Rs 25 million has already been spent on the refurbishing of the president's house.

Nawaz Sharif also said that the way he has humiliated Pakistan by trying to convert a purely private visit to USA into an official one by using public money shows that he has absolutely no regard for the pr[illegible] of Pakistan and the protocol of the office of pres[illegible].

He also alleged that the president had acted unconstitutionally in dislodging the government of Pir Sabir Shah in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]. His act has weakened the federation.

Spokesman Denounces Charges

BK0106151094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] An official spokesman has described the allegations against the president of Pakistan in a so-called fact sheet issued by Nawaz Muslim League as a forgery and a crude and disgraceful attempt to malign the head of state. The spokesman said the people of Pakistan were shocked by the wanton and irresponsible behavior of this defeated and discredited group of politicians to malign the head of state when he is abroad and is meeting world leaders. The spokesman said the callous attitude toward national interest is characteristic of this section of the opposition.

Government Denies Arming Kashmiri Guerrillas

BK3105124294 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 May 94 pp 1, 11

[Report by Aroosa Alam; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Islamabad, May 30—The ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] ISPR [Interservice Public Relations] and Foreign Office have strongly contradicted the story run by WASHINGTON POST [WP] and THE GUARDIAN about arming of the Kashmiri guerrillas by Pakistan Army saying that WP's correspondent John Ward Anderson did not meet either any official of ISI or top functionaries of the Foreign Office to discuss any aspect of the story in question.

Talking to THE MUSLIM here on Monday [word indistinct] officials of the three organisations expressed their serious reservations about the contents of the malicious story and above all about the timing of the publication of the story. The story has been published around the time the Indian Prime Minister was in the US and two days before the private visit of the Pakistani President.

Knowledgeable sources said it was pertinent to note that WASHINGTON POST's correspondent visited Pakistan in the last week of March and met only an official of the level of Director General in Islamabad. The Foreign Minister and the Foreign Secretary had declined to meet him because of their preoccupations with important matters.

Intriguingly, the WASHINGTON POST correspondent chose to file his story a month and half after his visit. That he had to wait for such a long time to file his story is indicative of mala fide [as published] intentions.

According to the report reproduced by THE GUARDIAN in its issue dated May 17, 1994, Pakistan military sources admit they have resumed arming, training and providing logistical support to militants fighting Indian security forces in Kashmir less than a year after convincing the US they had adopted a hands off policy there.

The report goes on to say: "The Pakistan Army's Inter-Services Intelligence directorate—akin to the CIA—and its field intelligence unit are coordinating the shipment of arms from Pakistani Kashmir to the Indian side where Muslim insurgents are waging a protracted war, the sources said. They said the Pakistani military was also occasionally helping to train militants and coordinate their fight against India. India and Pakistan each control a portion of Kashmir, but each claim the entire region. Pakistani officials denied any active role in arming or training militants.

The US considers Kashmir a potential flashpoint for a nuclear war. India and Pakistan—both capable of making nuclear bombs—have fought three wars since independence 47 years ago—two of them being over Kashmir. "The Pakistani military sources—including two serving and two recently retired army officials involved in the ISI's Kashmir operations—said Pakistan had suspended active support for the insurgency last year when the US threatened to include it to the list of countries sponsoring terrorism. This would automatically have served aid and business ties between the two countries.

Pakistan then 'privatised' its Kashmir operations, funneling support to militants through non-governmental organisations often run by retired army and ISI officials, the sources said. They said that when the US failed to include Pakistan to the terrorist list, the army resumed its active operations early this year, although at a reduced level.

"In its annual report on terrorism released this month, the US State Department confirmed 'there were credible reports in 1993 of official Pakistani support to Kashmir militants'. 'Many private organisations also continue to arm the insurgents with the Pakistani help', the sources said.

Giving his comments on the WASHINGTON POST/ THE GUARDIAN report, a spokesman of the Foreign Office said that though the correspondent who has filed this report, usually carries objective reports, unfortunately and surprisingly the report in question is totally baseless and fabricated. The correspondent he said, has failed to substantiate his report with circumstantial evidence.

Except for quoting some unidentified sources, the correspondent has not mentioned any spot or the name of the camps where the Kashmiri guerrillas are being allegedly trained and armed, the Foreign Office spokesman said.

The ISI sources while talking to THE MUSLIM said that the story is fabricated to the extent that we don't even wish to comment on it. They, however, made it categorically clear that none of the foreign correspondents or privately with any of the officers in the ISI in particular and with army officers in general.

When the top aides of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto were asked if there was any change in Bhutto government's policy with regard to hands-off to Kashmiri guerrillas, they said Ms. Bhutto has time and again made public statements that Pakistan was only supporting the Kashmiri guerrillas diplomatically and politically. They said it is unfortunate to misinterpret the policy statements of the government. A government acts on the same policy which it professes publicly.

They said it's a well calculated move to malign a prestigious, sensitive agency which has effectively checked the infiltration and activities of RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] and Mosad agents in Pakistan, particularly in Sindh. The government sources confirmed that this security agency has nabbed a large number of RAW agents from Azad Kashmir and Sindh. They said the lists of these agents would be handed over to the Indian government when and if required.

Council Approves Eighth Five-Year Plan

BK0106101994 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[By Nadeem Hussain]

[Text] Islamabad, May 31—The National Economic Council (NEC) which met here Tuesday with Prime Minister in chair approved the 8th five year plan of Rs [rupees] 1701 billion.

The 8th five year plan registers an increase of 48 per cent over the 7th five year plan which was Rs 1149 billion. The size of the plan has been fixed on the constant price to make the comparison with the 7th five year plan easy.

The major emphasis in the 8th five year plan is on education, health and energy sectors. The share of public and private sector in the plan has also been increased compared to the previous plan.

The major character of the 8th plan is to ensure a minimum investment of Rs 949 billion against Rs 596 billion in the 7th five year plan.

The share of the public rector in the 8th plan has been increased to Rs 751 billion compared to Rs 553 billion in the 7th plan, showing an increase of 59 per cent. The budget announcing over the five years in the public sector would be of Rs 483 billion.

The share of private sector has been envisaged as Rs 949 billion compared to Rs 596 billion in the 7th plan reflecting an increase of 48 per cent.

The Deputy Chairman, Planning, Saeed Ahmad Qureshi and Minister for Information, Khalid Ahmad Kharal, gave the briefing regarding the 8th five year plan.

The size of the public sector programme has also been increased in the 8th plan [word indistinct] it is nominal.

It has been kept at Rs 752 billion out of which Rs 483 billion would be budget financed whereas Rs 269 billion would be corporate and market financed.

In the 7th five-year plan, the size of the Public Sector Programme was of Rs 553 billion out of which Rs 457 billion were budget financed and Rs 96 billion were corporate and market financed. This means that in the 8th five-year plan, the share of corporate and market financed has been increased three-fold which to many seems overoptimistic.

The growth targets have also been fixed in the 8th five-year plan. These targets for all practical purposes are unrealistic.

A comprehensive macro economic management policy has been adopted in the 8th five-year plan, according to which the growth targets would be achieved in a frame work of equity, stability and sustainability.

The overall fiscal deficit would be reduced from 7.9 per cent to 4 per cent of GDP and the current account deficit would be brought down from 3.7 billion dollars at present to 1.84 billion dollars by the end of 8th five-year plan, which means the level would be brought down from 7 per cent a present to 24 per cent of GDP.

The plan is also aimed at containing the long-term external debt at 36 per cent of GDP and keep monetary expansion below the growth of nominal GDP and also to reduce inflation rate from 9.3 per cent to 6 per cent. The plan also envisages to raise national savings from 15.8 per cent to 19.9 per cent and generate 6.2 million new jobs against 3.2 million in the 7th plan.

The 8th five-year plan has been targeted to make the GDP growth rate to increase by 7 per cent, agriculture sector 4.9 per cent, industry 9.4 per cent, manufacturing 9.9 per cent and services sector 6.7 per cent.

The annual plan for the forthcoming fiscal year 1994-95 was also approved.

The targets for the forthcoming fiscal year 1994-95 have been envisaged as GDP growth 6.9 per cent, agriculture 8 per cent, manufacturing 6.9 per cent, exports 19 per cent, imports 10.7 per cent and inflation to be reduced to 7.5 per cent.

The size of the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the forthcoming fiscal year was also approved. The original size of the PSDP was Rs 94 billion but NEC approved the size of the PSDP for Rs 90 billion.

Provinces would be given Rs 25 billion. The important budgetary programme was approved which include Social Action Plan (SAP) community health, water and drainage, [word indistinct] Nuclear and [word indistinct].

To meet the new challenges of competitive market, the 8th five-year plan provides three-pronged strategy. This includes: (1) lowering tax rates and broadening tax base; ensuring documentation of the economy, (2) establishment of special concessions and rent-seeking activities and (3) lowering tariff structure and integration with the world economy.

On the education side, a major breakthrough would be achieved by increasing the literacy rate from 34 per cent to 48 per cent. Output of technicians in the country world be increased by 50 per cent from 85,000 to 127,000.

The participation in primary education for boys would be increased from 85 per cent to 96 per cent and for girls from 54 per cent to 82 per cent, which according to the plan makers would be quite a landmark.

In the health sector, 33,000 village health workers would be engaged, which would be the first major effort of its kind be rural areas, other salient features in this sector include the full immunization of mother and child,

enhanced coverage of preventive services from 80 per cent to 90 per cent, life expectancy to go up from 61.5 years to 66.5 years and infant mortality rate to decline from 8.6 per cent to 6.5 per cent by the end of 8th plan.

Regarding population control, the population planning programme coverage would be increased from 20 per cent to 80 percent, i.e. in the urban areas from 54 percent to 100 percent and in rural areas from 5 percent to 70 percent. The rural water supply coverage would increase from 17 percent to 71 percent of the population. Rural [word indistinct] coverage to go up from 14 percent to 32 percent.

In the energy sector, construction of Ghazi-Barotha dam of 1,450 MW would be the main priority. Whereas thermal generation of more than 2,500 MW in private sector has also been envisaged.

Other salient features of the energy plan include completion of ongoing Hub Power Project in private sector, privatisation of thermal plants of WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority], increase in power generation capacity by 56 percent (16,285 MW), increase in oil production by 75 percent (19,113 barrels per day), increase in gas production by 59 percent ([figure indistinct] MMCBD), increase in refining capacity by 3 times (20 million tens per annum), and electrification of 19,700 villages.

A comprehensive transport and communication plan has been prescribed in the plan which includes double rail track from [word indistinct] to Peshawar, manufacturing of 1,367 large capacity wagons, completion of Indus Highway, completion of dualisation of national highway and completion of Lahore-Islamabad Motorway, construction of Gawadar port through private sector, clearing pending demands for telephone connections and laying 2.5 million new lines and increase in the number of post offices from 13,513 to 18,513.

The 8th five-year plan lays emphasis on agriculture sector. The plan maintains integrated management of agriculture, irrigation and drainage, integrated pest mangament, introduction of sprinkle and trickle irrigation, better soil management, more emphasis or non-crop sector and establishment of Kisan Bank.

Highlights

- Total size Rs 1,701 billion
- Increase of 18 per cent over the 7th plan
- Total Public Sector Programme Rs 752 billion
- GDP to grown by 7 per cent, agriculture 4.9 per cent, industry 9.4 per cent, manufacturing 8.9 per cent and services 6.7 per cent.
- Fiscal deficit to be reduced to 4 per cent and current account deficit to 2.4 per cent of GDP.
- Inflation rate to be brought down to 6 per cent.
- Generation of 6.2 million new jobs against 3.2 million in 7th plan.
- Increase in literacy rate from 34 per cent to 48 per cent
- Decline in infant mortality rate from 8.6 to 6.5 per cent
- Population planning coverage to increase from 20 per cent to 80 per cent
- Coverage of rural water supply to increase from 47 per cent to 71 per cent of population
- Construction of Ghazi-Barotha dam of 1,458 MW
- New thermal power plants of 2500 MW in private sector
- Completion of Hub Power Project of 1,290 MW
- Oil production to increase by 75 per cent, gas by 59 per cent and refining capacity by three times
- Electrification of 19,700 villages
- Double rail-track from [word indistinct] to Peshawar
- Completion of Indus Highway
- Completion of Lahore-Islamabad Motorway
- Construction of Gawadar port through private sector
- More emphasis on non-crop sector
- Establishment of Kisan bank
- Saindak project